BERSERK

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6

三浦建太郎

KENTARO
MIURA

ベルセルク

BERSERK ⑥

BY

KENTARO
MIURA
三浦建太郎

TRANSLATION
DUANE JOHNSON
LETTERING AND RETOUCH
DAN NAKROSIS

DARK
HORSE
MANGA

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

US EDITORS
CHRIS WARNER
FRED LUI

COLLECTION DESIGNER
DAVID NESTELLE

English-language version produced by
DARK HORSE COMICS and DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING.

BERSERK vol. 6 by KENTARO MIURA

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Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie OR 97222

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First edition: January 2005

ISBN 978-1-59307-252-0

20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12
Printed in the United States of America

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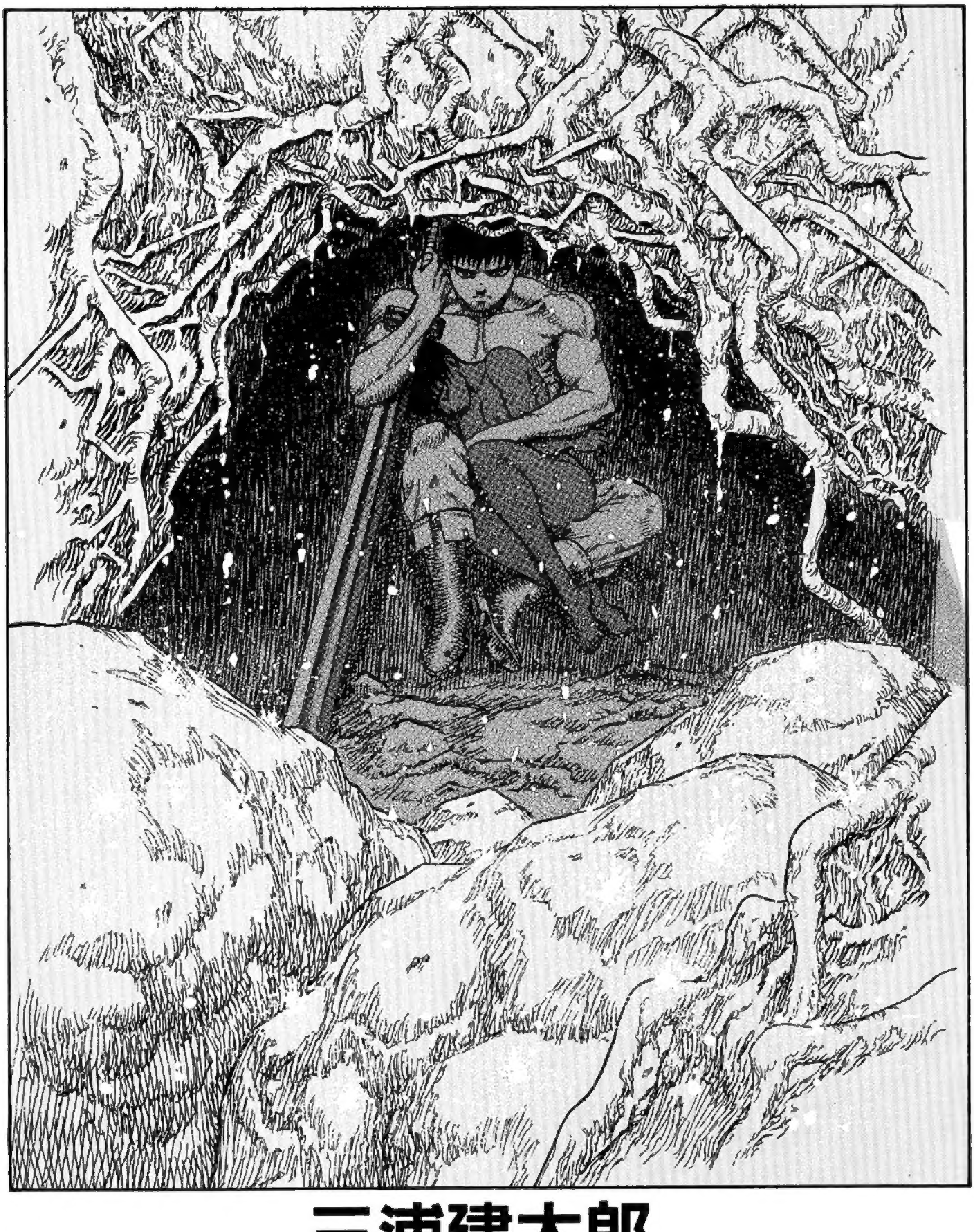
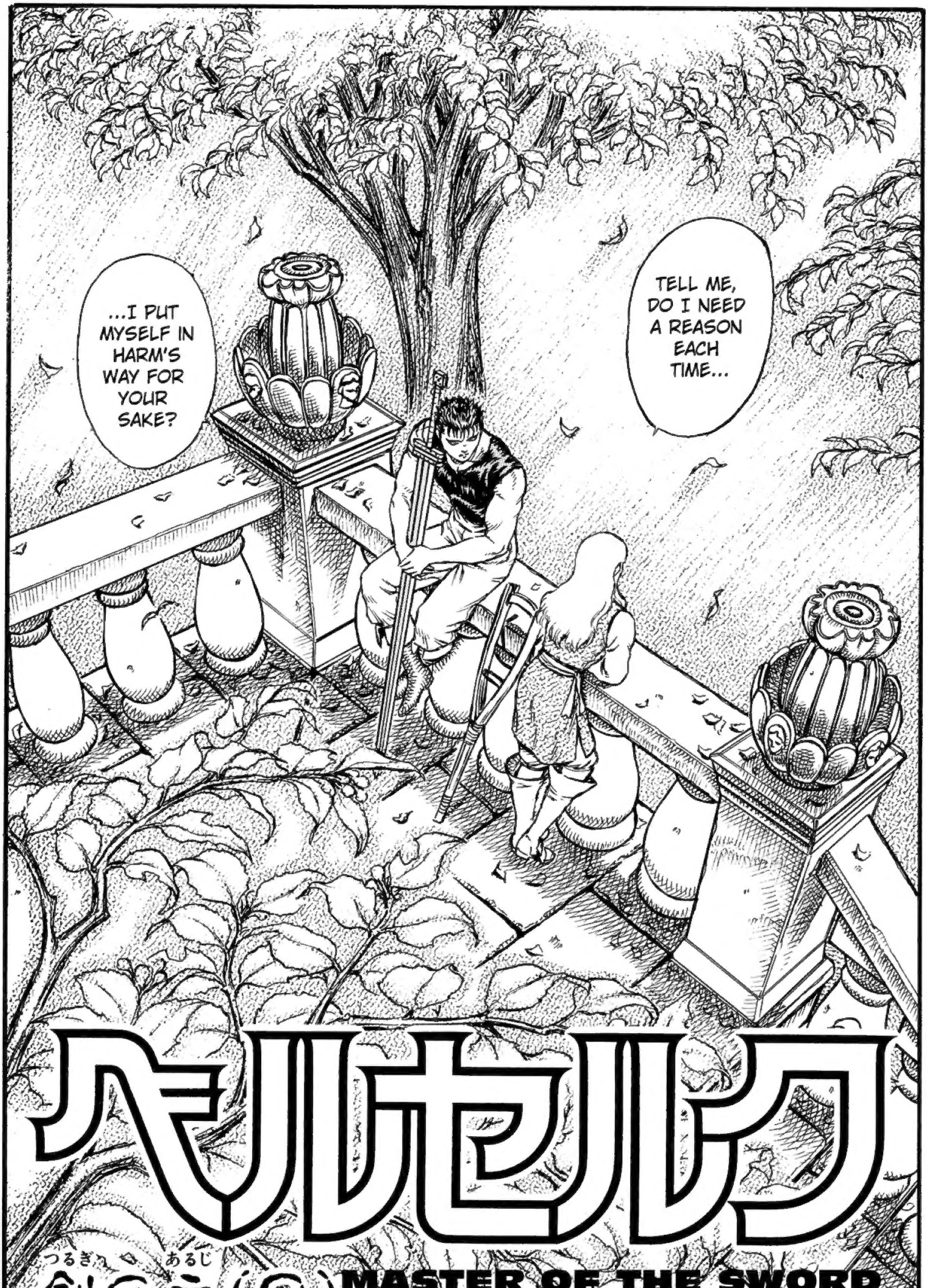


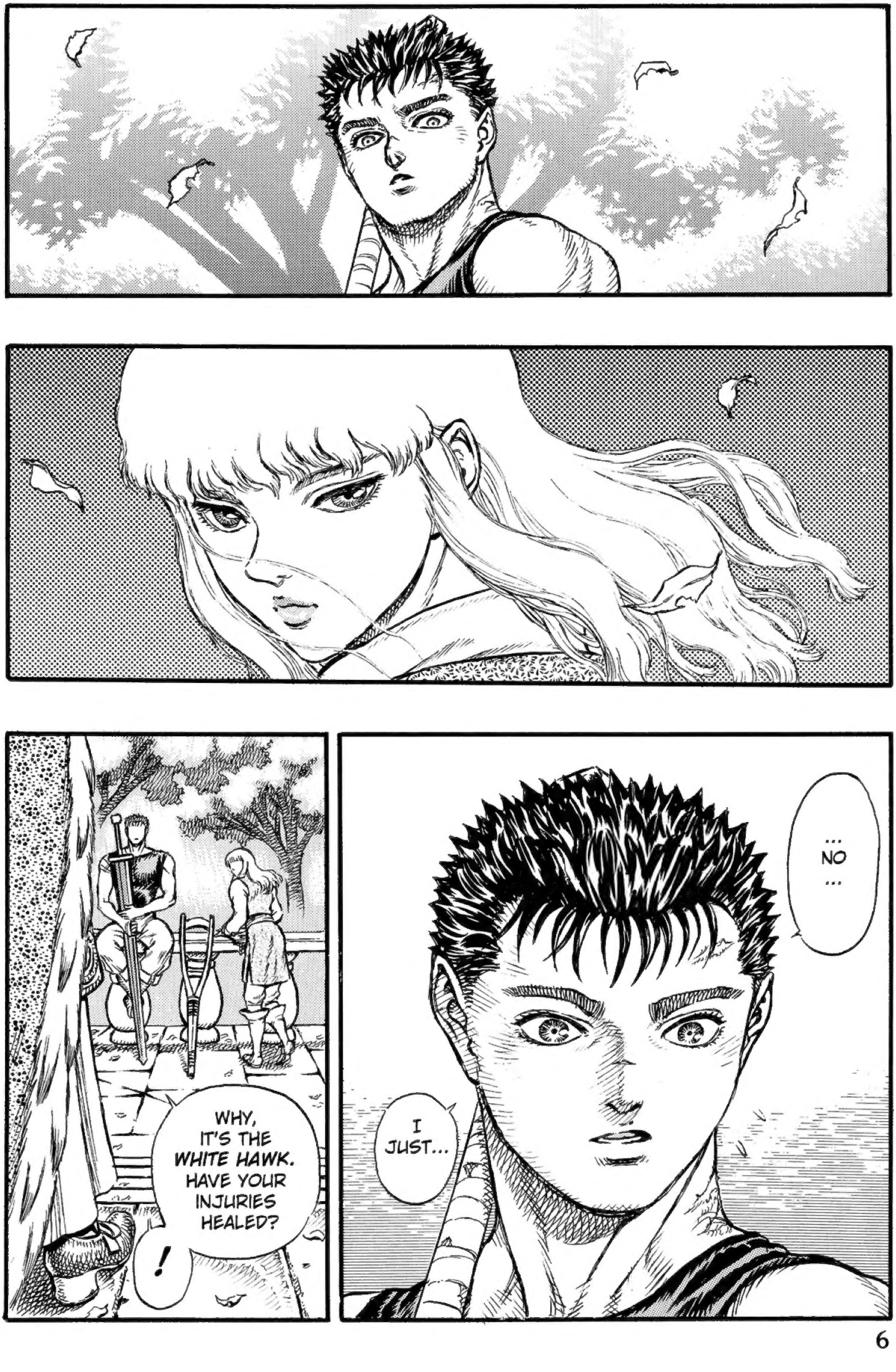
三浦建太郎

ベルセルク⑥

CONTENTS

MASTER OF THE SWORD, CHAPTER 2............................5
ASSASSIN, CHAPTER 1..33
ASSASSIN, CHAPTER 2..55
ASSASSIN, CHAPTER 3..75
ASSASSIN, CHAPTER 4..95
PRECIOUS THING..119
DEPARTURE FOR THE FRONT....................................139
ENGAGEMENT...161
CASCA, CHAPTER 1..181
CASCA, CHAPTER 2..201


TELL ME, DO I NEED A REASON EACH TIME...
...I PUT MYSELF IN HARM'S WAY FOR YOUR SAKE?
ベルセルク
つるぎ あるじ
剣の主（2）
MASTER OF THE SWORD
CHAPTER 2


...NO...
I JUST...
WHY, IT'S THE WHITE HAWK. HAVE YOUR INJURIES HEALED?
!

HEY, GUTS.
!
....
....
YOUR MAJESTY.
...WHY...
YOU THERE!!
YOU ARE BEFORE THE KING!! HOW DARE YOU?!
....
....
NO MATTER...
RAISE YOUR HEADS. I AM SIMPLY ON A STROLL.
BUT, SIRE...

THE CASTLE IS TEEMING WITH AGITATION FROM ALL THE SUCCESSIVE BATTLES AND WAR COUNCILS.
THERE IS NOT EVEN A MOMENT'S REST TO BE HAD...
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER, COUNT JULIUS.
HE IS GENERAL OF THE WHITE DRAGONS AND SECOND IN SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF MIDLAND.
I AM GRIFFITH, PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
HMPH.
INCIDENTALLY, SIR GRIFFITH, THE BATTLEFIELD EXPLOITS OF YOUR BAND OF THE HAWK...
...ARE ALWAYS MOST IMPRESSIVE.
MY GRACIOUS THANKS.
....
....
WHEN I SEE THE DARING VALOR WITH WHICH YOU ALL FIGHT, IT MAKES EVEN THIS OLD MAN'S BLOOD SEEM TO BOIL...
I RECALL WHEN OF OLD MY SUBJECTS AND I WOULD RUN ABOUT THE BATTLEFIELD... ALAS, WHEN I WAS YOUNG...

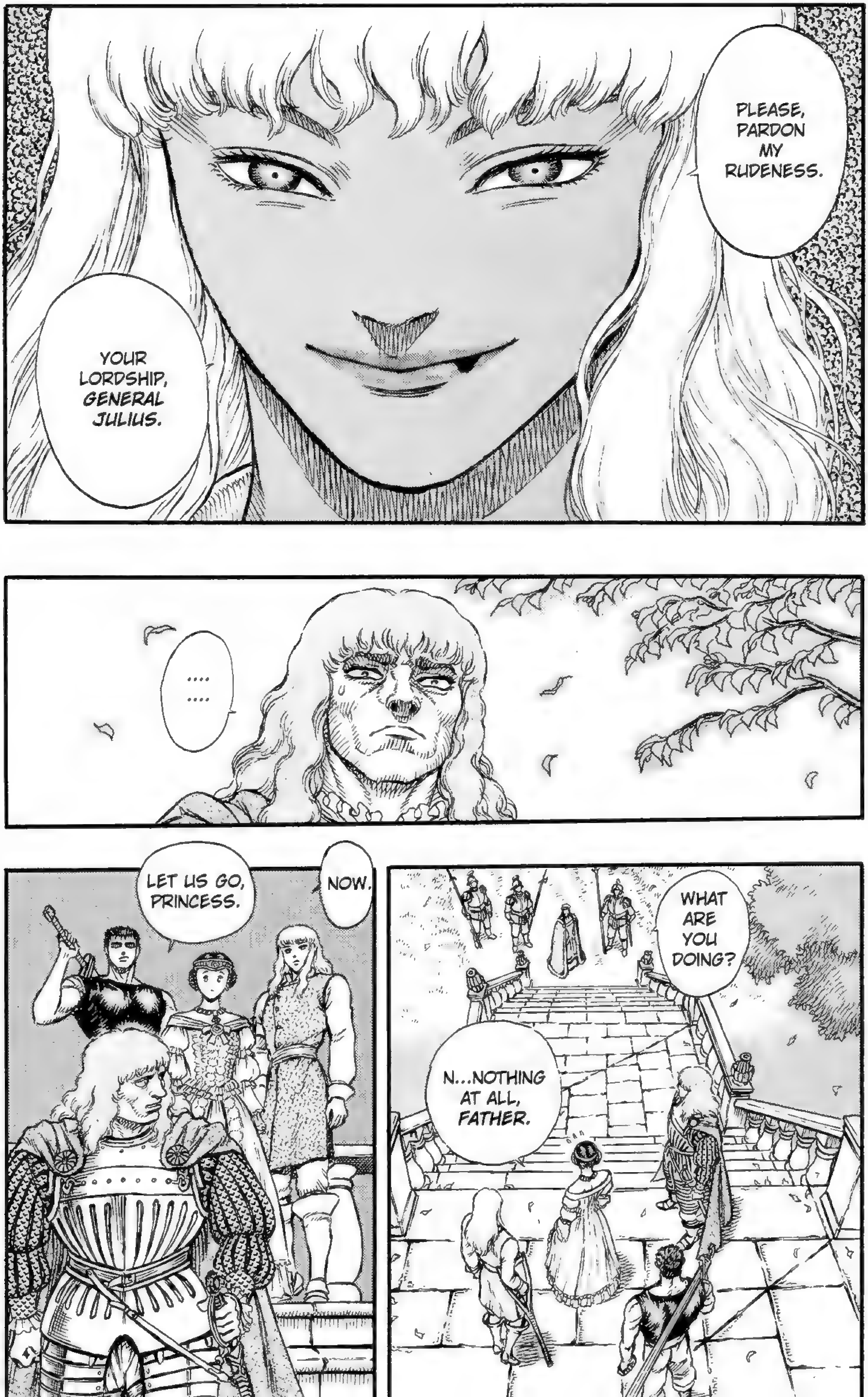
SIRE.
SPEAKING THAT WAY WITH A *MERE* TROOP COMMANDER...
COME, THERE IS NO WRONG IN IT.
IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE STATESMEN WHO DO NOT THINK FAVORABLY OF SUCH PEOPLE...
THEY SAY THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THOSE OF COMMON ORIGIN WILL REFLECT POORLY ON OUR ARMY'S PRESTIGE.
BUT PRESTIGE, STATUS AND THE LIKE DO NOT WIN BATTLES.
NOR DO THEY FEED THE PEOPLE. THESE *ARE* TROUBLED TIMES.
I ANTICIPATE THAT RATHER THAN NOBLE GENERALS WHO ARE BOUND TO OLD CUSTOMS...
...IT IS COMMON *DRAFTEES* SUCH AS YOURSELF, NOT TAKEN IN BY STATUS, WHO WILL HELP FORM THE *CORNERSTONE* OF THIS KINGDOM.
....
CH!
FOR YOUR SINCERE WORDS OF THANKS...
...I AM *MOST* GRATEFUL.

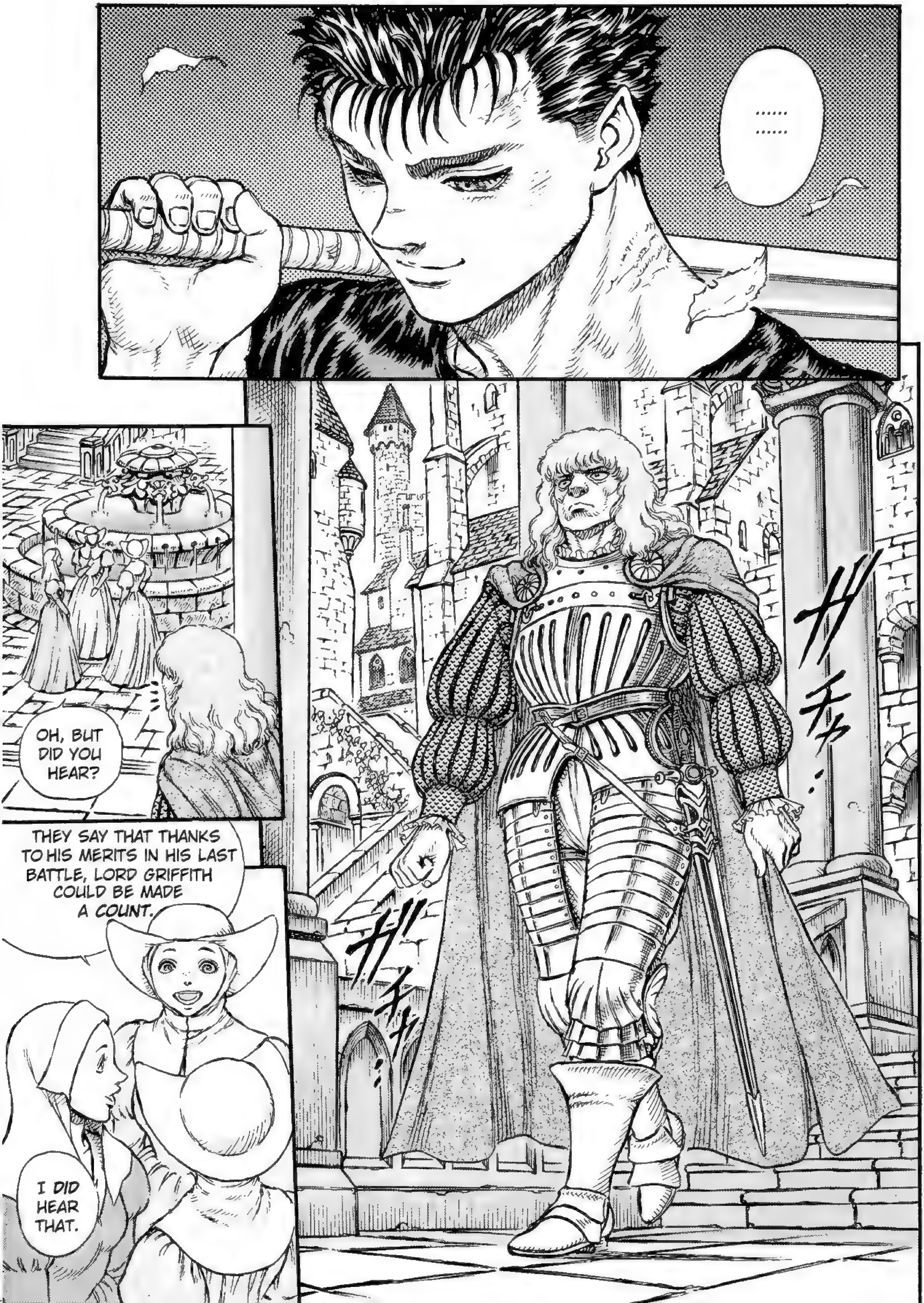
WHO MIGHT THAT LADY BE?
HN? OHH...
MY DAUGHTER, CHARLOTTE.
SHE IS SHY... SHE CLAIMS TO DISLIKE STERN SOLDIERS, AND SELDOM DOES SHE VENTURE OUTSIDE THE PALACE.

スス
CHAR-LOTTE.
JUST AS YOU SEE... PERHAPS BECAUSE SHE IS MY *ONLY* DAUGHTER, I HAVE SPOILED HER TO SOME DEGREE...
....
EXCUSE HER, LORD GRIFFITH.
タタ
....
COME, LET US GO, CHARLOTTE.
カッ

ガクン
KYA!

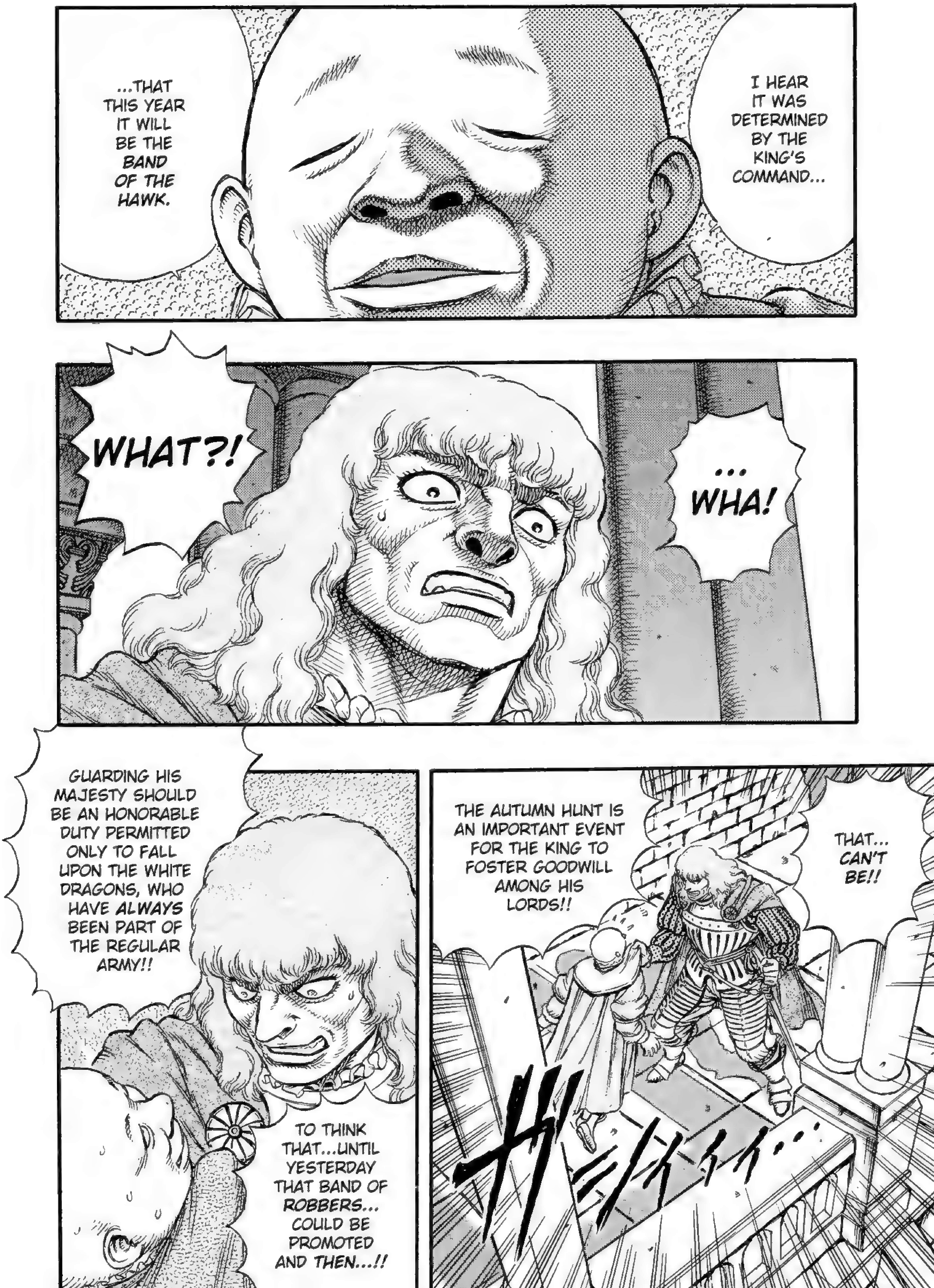
YOUR PARDON.
……
……
PLEASE, BE CAREFUL.
HOW DARE YOU TOUCH THE PRINCESS!!
YOU BASTARD!!
!
!
HEY, PAL!!

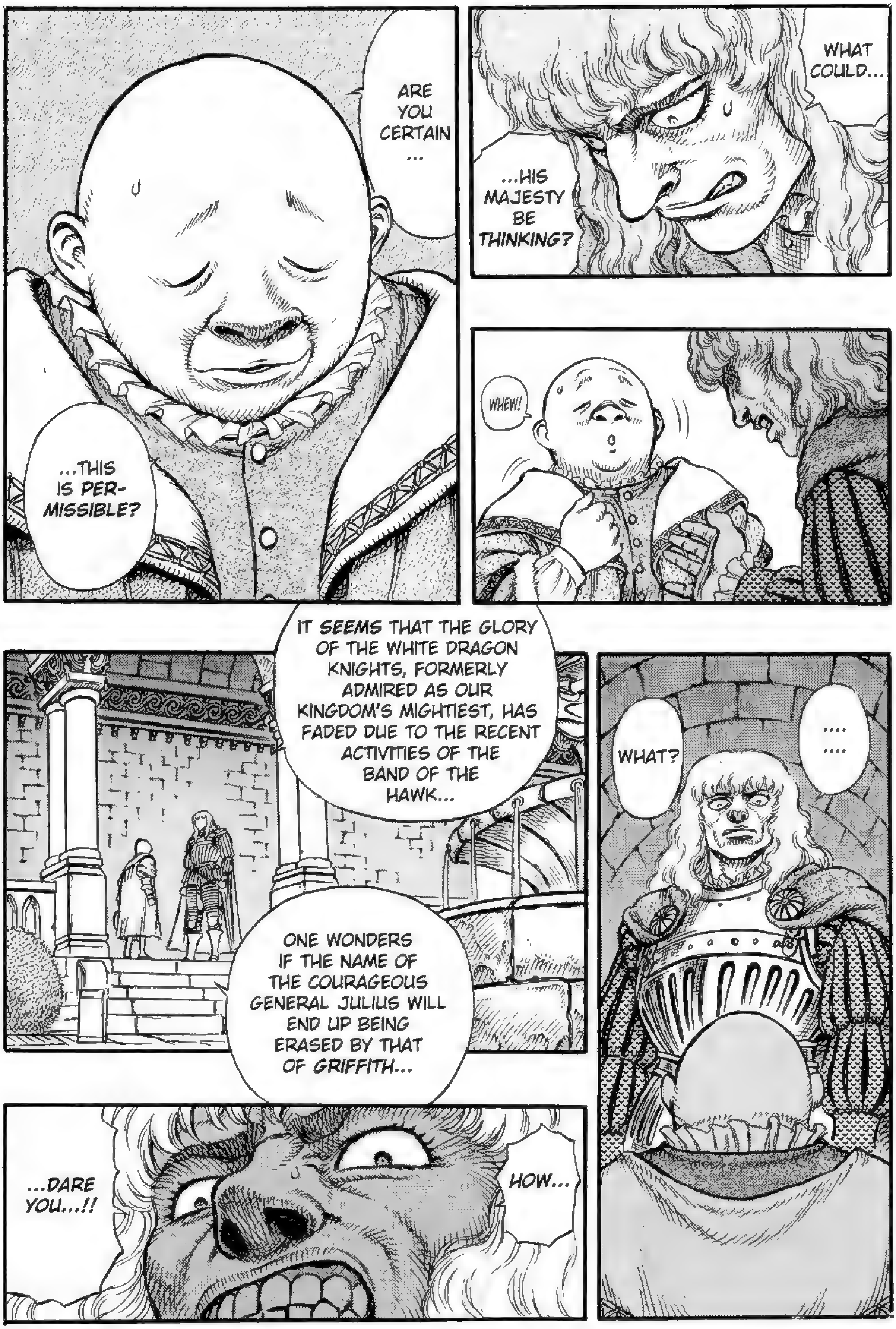

PLEASE, PARDON MY RUDENESS.
YOUR LORDSHIP, GENERAL *JULIUS*.
.....
.....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
N...NOTHING AT ALL, *FATHER*.
NOW.
LET US GO, PRINCESS.


……
……
ガチャ…
ガチャ…
OH, BUT DID YOU HEAR?
THEY SAY THAT THANKS TO HIS MERITS IN HIS LAST BATTLE, LORD GRIFFITH COULD BE MADE A COUNT.
I DID HEAR THAT.

HE IS JUST *SUPERB*... EVEN PRETTIER THAN ME, AND I'M A *WOMAN*. HOW *FRUSTRATING!*
NOT ONLY THAT, HE'S LEADER OF THE STRONGEST MILITARY GROUP IN THE KINGDOM *AND* THE BEST SWORDSMAN... IT'S JUST *TOO MUCH*.
YES, THAT IT IS.
HE'S SO ELEGANT AND DIGNIFIED, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HE'S A COMMONER LIKE US.
AND HE'S SO MUCH MORE REFINED THAN *THOSE* AWKWARD ARISTOCRATS.
ON THAT NOTE, THE OFFICERS IN THE CASTLE ARE ALL SO *BOORISH* AND *RUDE!* IT'S *DISGUSTING*.
THE OTHER OFFICERS ARE PITIFUL COMPARED TO *LORD GRIFFITH!*
OH, YES...
RIGHT, RIGHT.
......
......
CHIRPING SPARROWS
......
HEY!!
YOU MAIDSERVANTS!! WHAT ARE YOU CHATTERING ABOUT?!
THERE YOU GO...

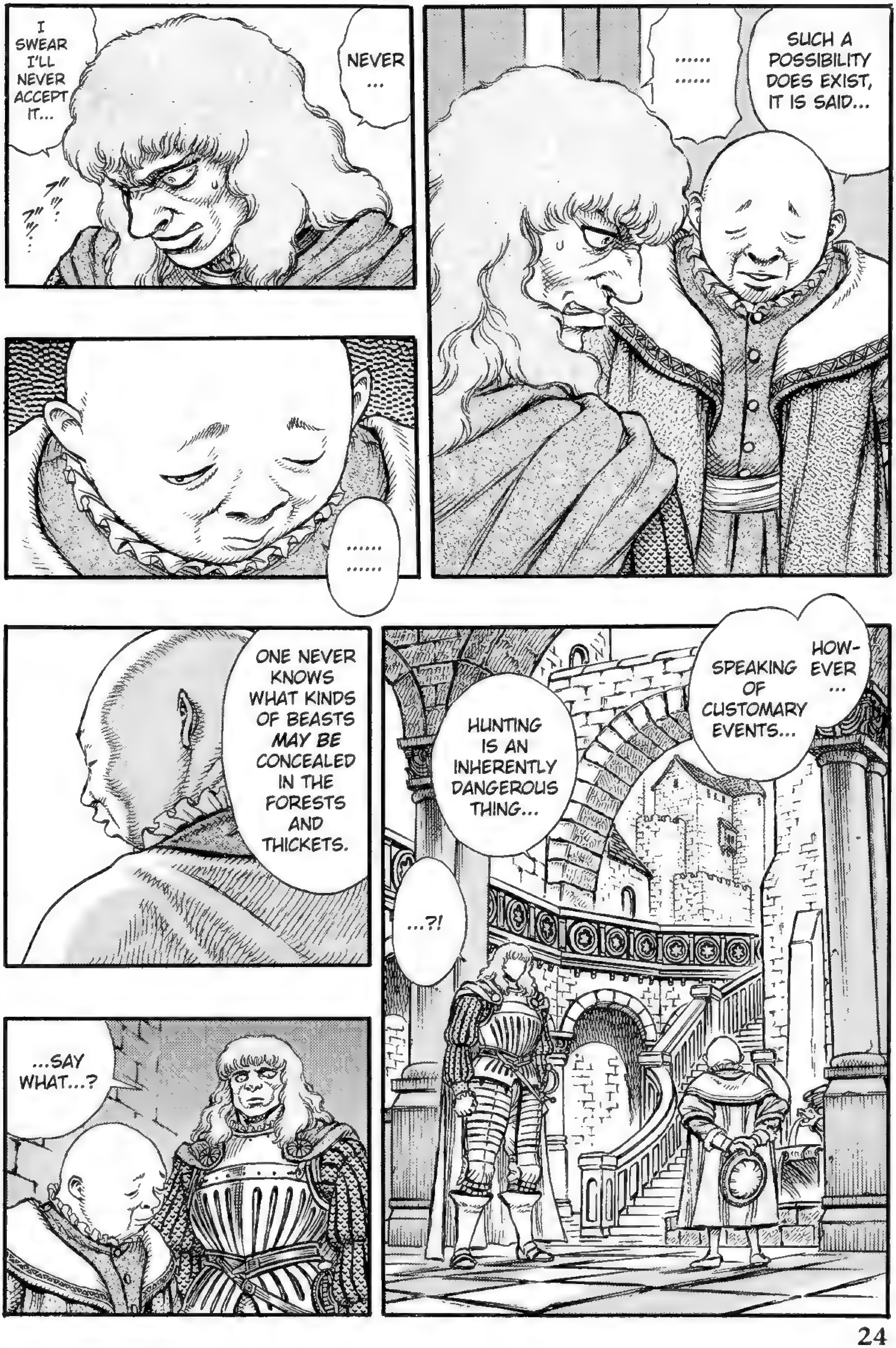
SUCH A LOUD SHOUT WILL RESOUND THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CASTLE.
!
YOU SEEM MOST DISTURBED...
...LORD JULIUS.
MINISTER FOSS.
DOES SOMETHING CONCERN YOU?
IT'S NOTHING!
INCIDENTALLY, GENERAL... DID YOU HEAR THE DEBATE... ABOUT THE KING'S GUARD FOR THE UPCOMING AUTUMN HUNT?
IT'S CUSTOMARY THAT BE LEFT EACH YEAR TO MY WHITE DRAGON KNIGHTS... BUT WHAT?
....
....

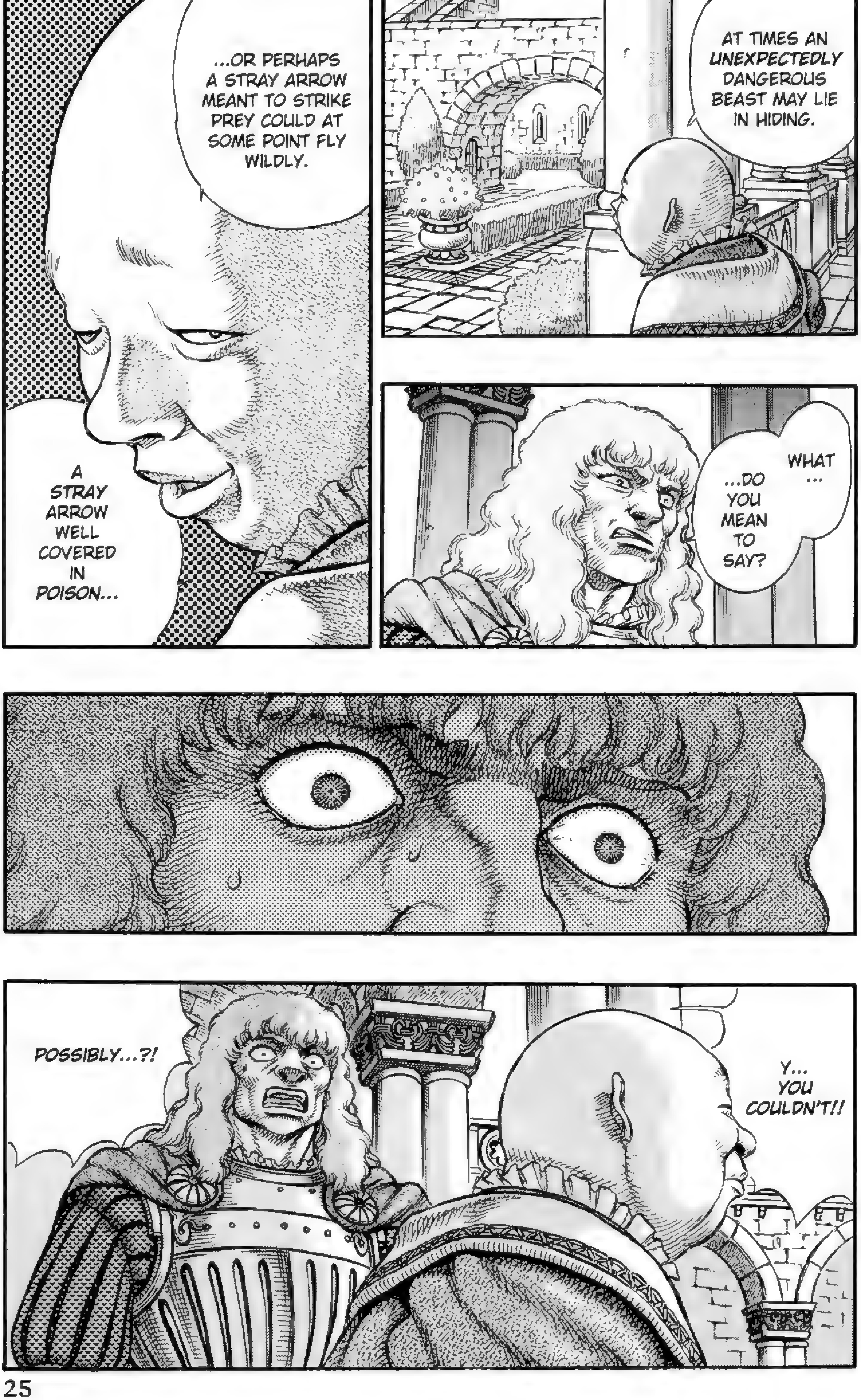

I HEAR IT WAS DETERMINED BY THE KING'S COMMAND...
...THAT THIS YEAR IT WILL BE THE BAND OF THE HAWK.
... WHA!
WHAT?!
THAT... CAN'T BE!!
THE AUTUMN HUNT IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR THE KING TO FOSTER GOODWILL AMONG HIS LORDS!!
ザシイイイ‥
GUARDING HIS MAJESTY SHOULD BE AN HONORABLE DUTY PERMITTED ONLY TO FALL UPON THE WHITE DRAGONS, WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE REGULAR ARMY!!
TO THINK THAT...UNTIL YESTERDAY THAT BAND OF ROBBERS... COULD BE PROMOTED AND THEN...!!

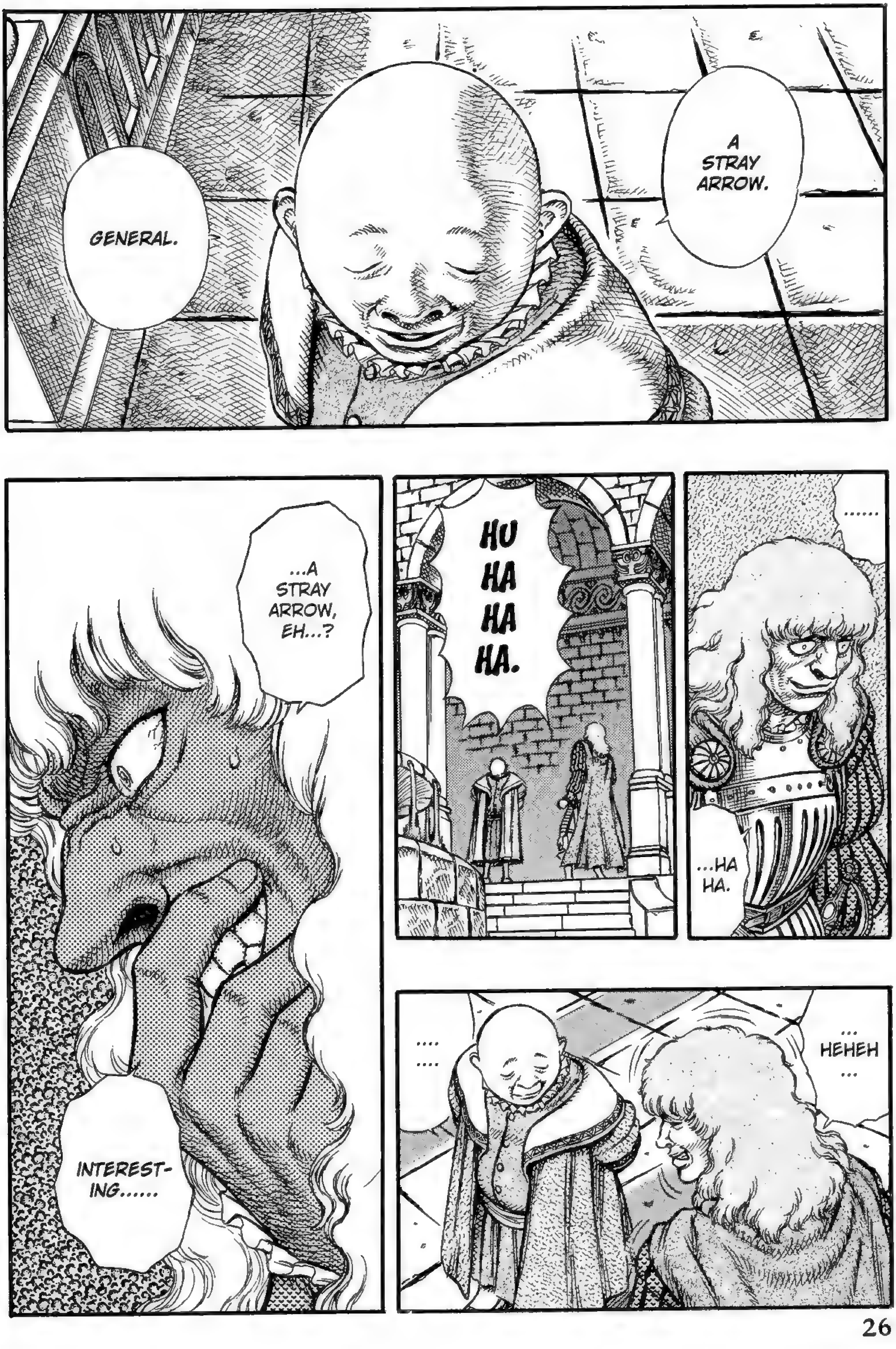

WHAT COULD...
...HIS MAJESTY BE THINKING?
ARE YOU CERTAIN...
...THIS IS PERMISSIBLE?
WHEW!
....
....
WHAT?
IT *SEEMS* THAT THE GLORY OF THE WHITE DRAGON KNIGHTS, FORMERLY ADMIRED AS OUR KINGDOM'S MIGHTIEST, HAS FADED DUE TO THE RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE BAND OF THE HAWK...
ONE WONDERS IF THE NAME OF THE COURAGEOUS GENERAL JULIUS WILL END UP BEING ERASED BY THAT OF *GRIFFITH*...
HOW...
...DARE YOU...!!

IT IS A RUMOR.
A *RUMOR* TOLD BY MANY.
......!!
HOWEVER...
...ONE CANNOT SCORN...HIS ABILITY ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
THAT THE *BAND OF THE HAWK* IS EVER VICTORIOUS IS AN *INDISPUTABLE FACT.*
HE IS SURELY A *GODSEND* IN OUR TIME OF CONFLICT.
THE FIGHTING SHOWS NO SIGN OF ENDING SOON. IN SUCH CASE HE WILL *CONTINUE* TO DISTINGUISH HIMSELF MILITARILY.
FURTHERMORE, THE WAY HE HAS INGRATIATED HIMSELF...HIS MAJESTY SEEMS TO HAVE PLACED A TERRIBLY *HIGH VALUE* ON THE BOY...

IF WE AREN'T CAREFUL...
...GRIFFITH MIGHT EVEN REACH THE LEVEL OF GENERAL.
RIDICULOUS...!!
I WON'T ACCEPT IT...!!!
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF A COMMON-BORN GENERAL!!
THAT BOY, A GENERAL LIKE ME...?!
YOU MEAN THAT HUMBLE COMMONER WILL SPEAK TO ME ON THE SAME LEVEL?!


I SWEAR I'LL NEVER ACCEPT IT...
NEVER...
......
......
SUCH A POSSIBILITY DOES EXIST, IT IS SAID...
......
......
ONE NEVER KNOWS WHAT KINDS OF BEASTS *MAY BE* CONCEALED IN THE FORESTS AND THICKETS.
...SAY WHAT...?
HOWEVER...
SPEAKING OF CUSTOMARY EVENTS...
HUNTING IS AN INHERENTLY DANGEROUS THING...
...?!


AT TIMES AN UNEXPECTEDLY DANGEROUS BEAST MAY LIE IN HIDING.
...OR PERHAPS A STRAY ARROW MEANT TO STRIKE PREY COULD AT SOME POINT FLY WILDLY.
A STRAY ARROW WELL COVERED IN POISON...
WHAT ...
...DO YOU MEAN TO SAY?
Y... YOU COULDN'T!!
POSSIBLY...?!


A STRAY ARROW.
GENERAL.
......
...HA HA.
HU HA HA HA HA.
...HEHEH...
....
...A STRAY ARROW, EH...?
INTERESTING......

A FITTING WAY FOR A COMMONER TO DIE!!
……
……
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ガチャ

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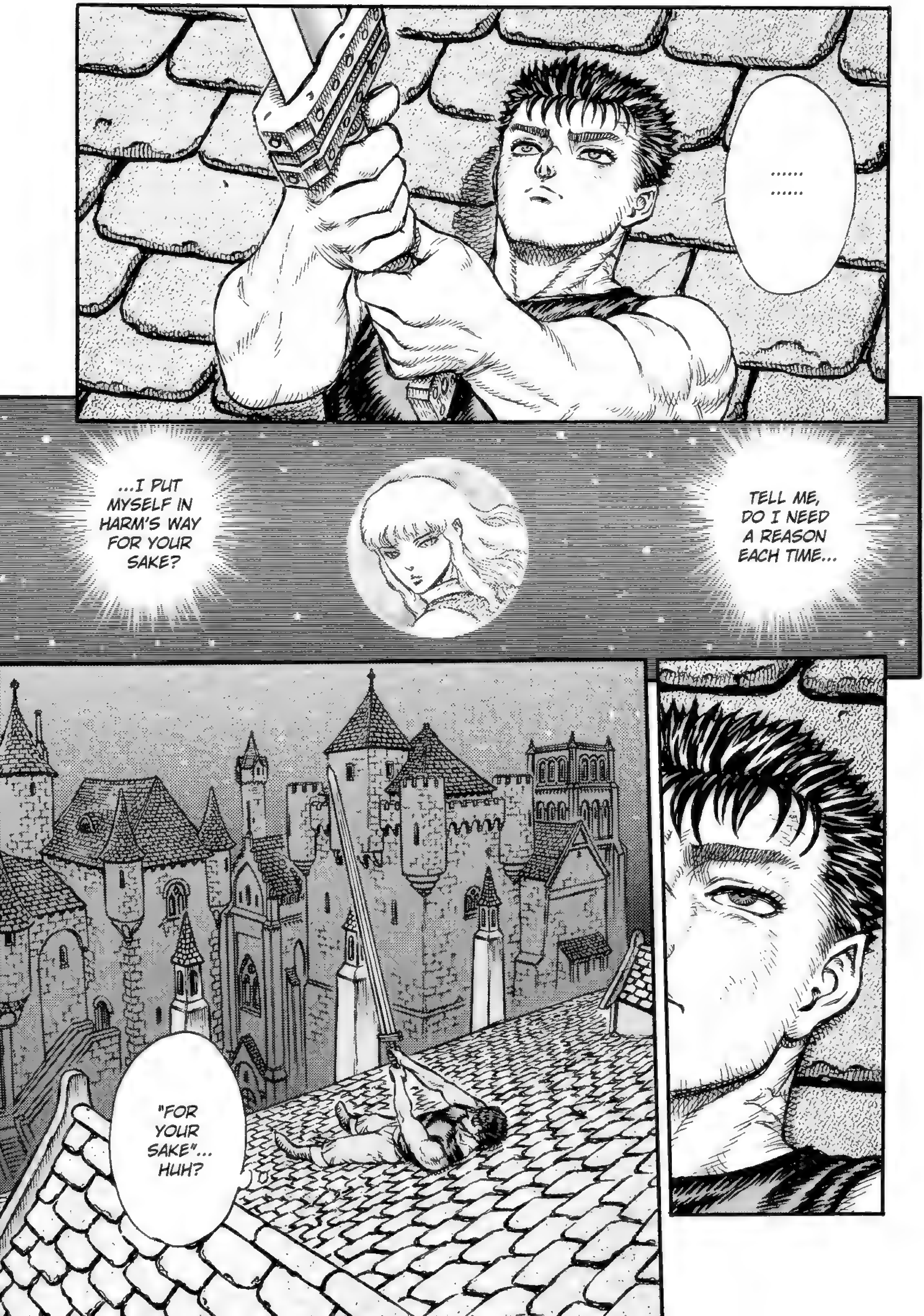
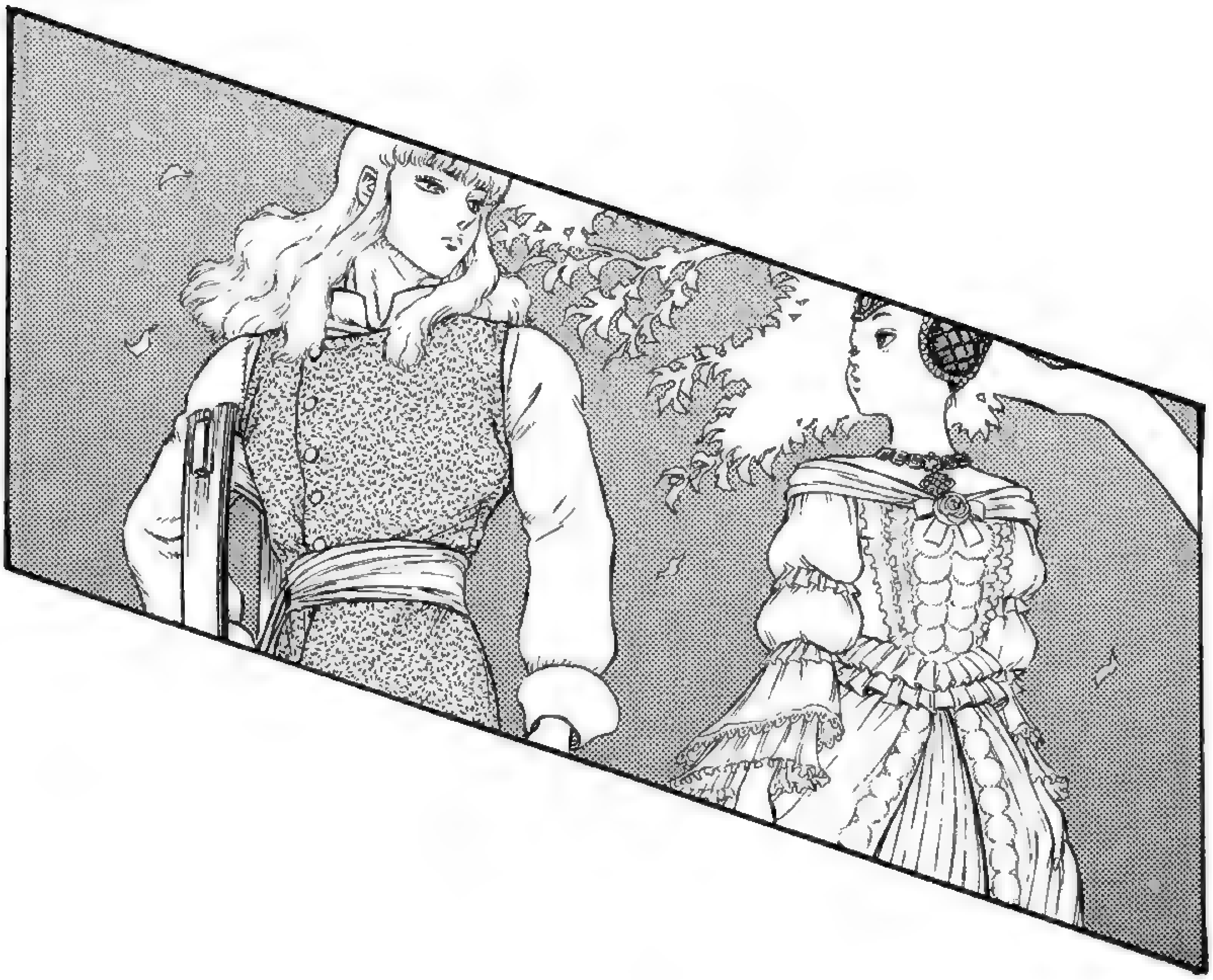

......
......
TELL ME, DO I NEED A REASON EACH TIME...
...I PUT MYSELF IN HARM'S WAY FOR YOUR SAKE?
"FOR YOUR SAKE"... HUH?

THAT ONE TIME…
IT WAS THIS SAME SORT OF……
GLARINGLY BRIGHT FULL MOON…
……
……
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS THE ANSWER I WAS SEARCHING FOR OR NOT…
BUT FOR NOW…

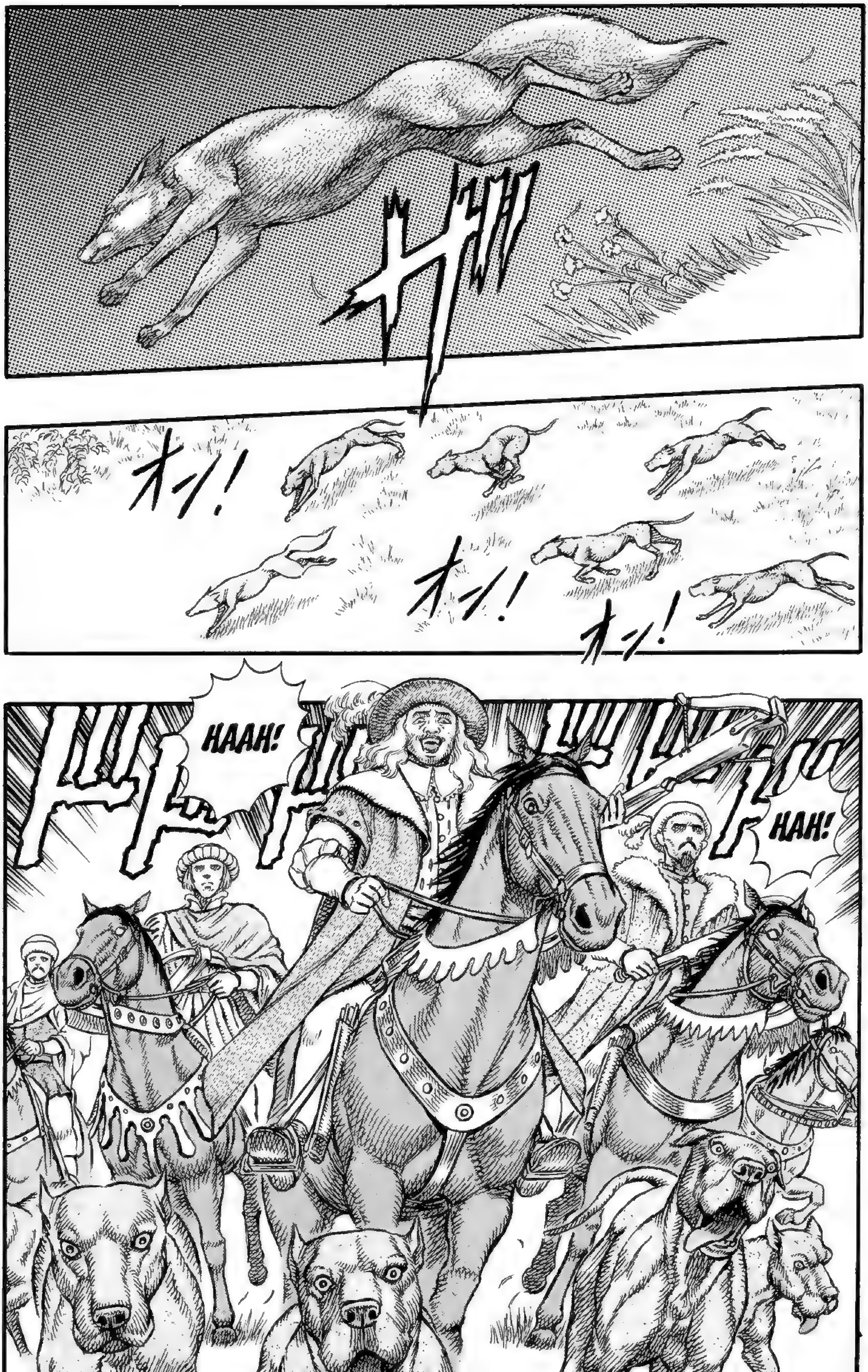
FOR NOW I'LL WIELD MY SWORD.
FOR HIS SAKE.
MASTER OF THE SWORD (2): END



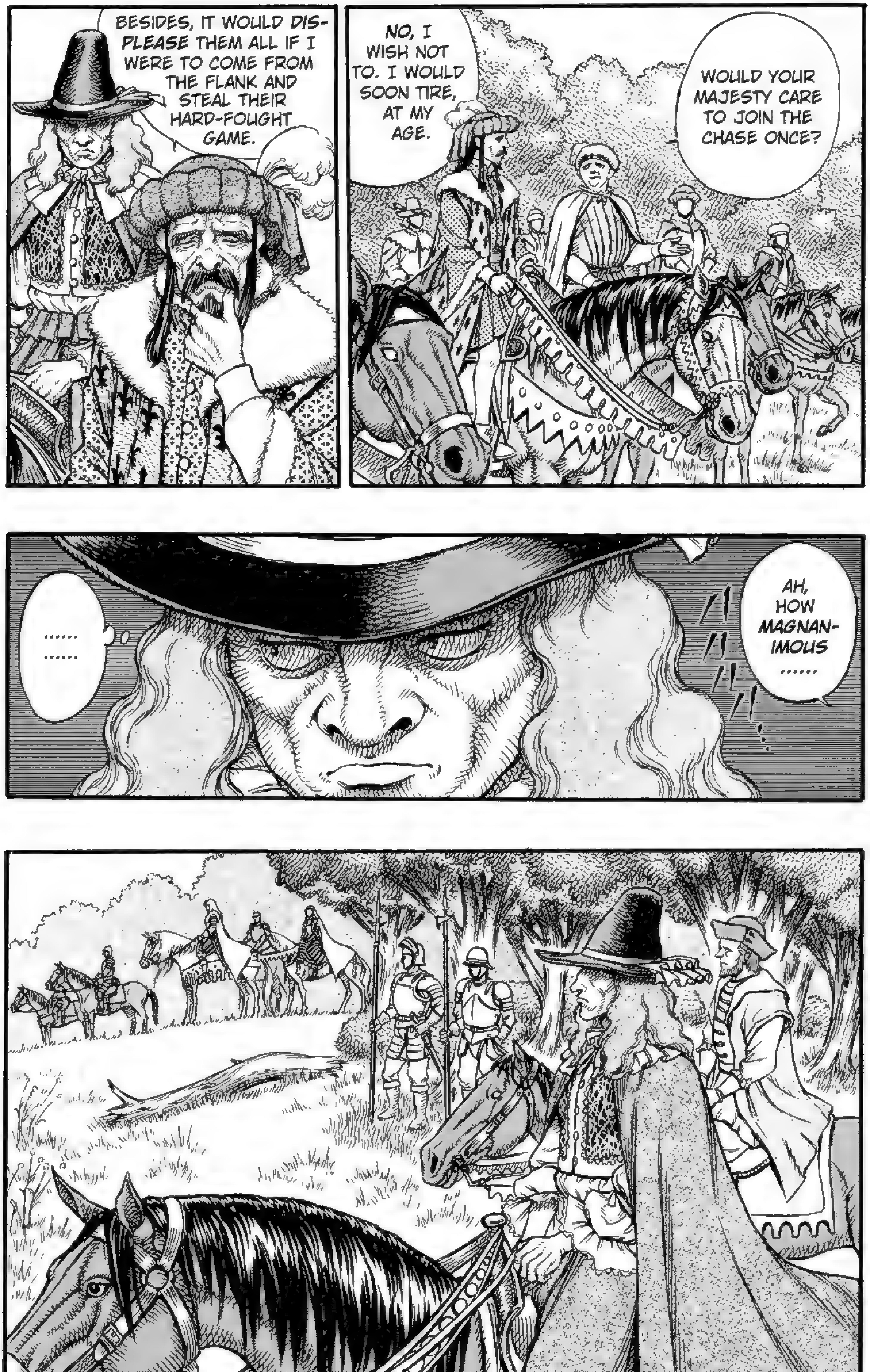
ベルセルク

ASSASSIN
CHAPTER 1

暗殺者（1）

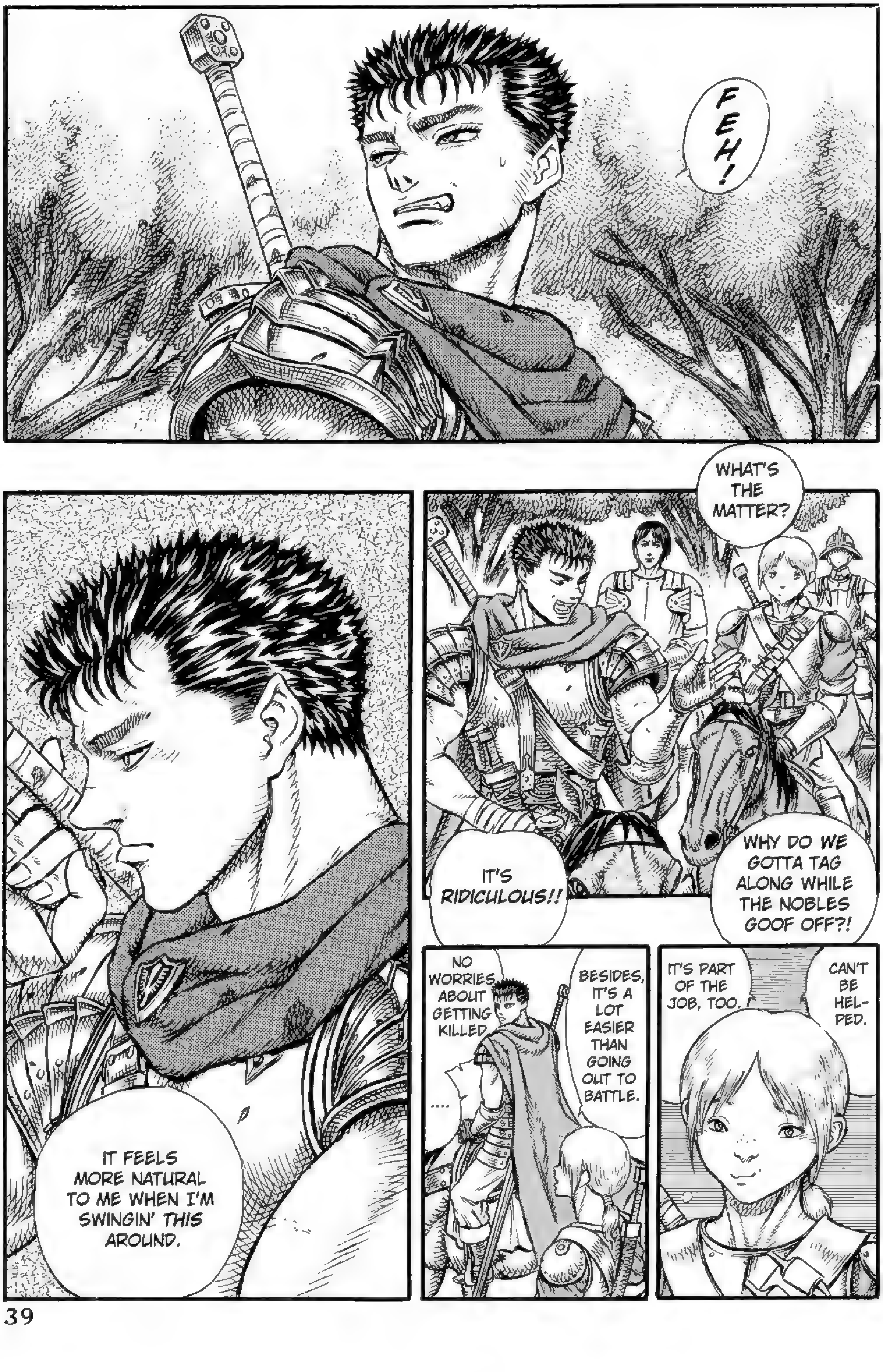

ザッ
オン!
オン!
オン!
ドドドド
HAAH!
HAH!

ワァァァ.ァ
ァァ.
ワン
ワン
ワン
ワン
HMM.
QUITE THE TENACIOUS PREY.


WOULD YOUR MAJESTY CARE TO JOIN THE CHASE ONCE?
NO, I WISH NOT TO. I WOULD SOON TIRE, AT MY AGE.
BESIDES, IT WOULD *DISPLEASE* THEM ALL IF I WERE TO COME FROM THE FLANK AND STEAL THEIR HARD-FOUGHT GAME.
AH, HOW *MAGNANIMOUS* ......
......
......

……
……
ニチ…

NO!! IT'LL ESCAPE TO THE THICKET!!
ザ!
GAU!
WHOA. WHOA.
オン
オン
YOU DID IT, BOY!!
…… ……


FEH!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHY DO WE GOTTA TAG ALONG WHILE THE NOBLES GOOF OFF?!
IT'S RIDICULOUS!!
CAN'T BE HELPED.
IT'S PART OF THE JOB, TOO.
BESIDES, IT'S A LOT EASIER THAN GOING OUT TO BATTLE.
NO WORRIES ABOUT GETTING KILLED
....
IT FEELS MORE NATURAL TO ME WHEN I'M SWINGIN' THIS AROUND.

HAH!
...FOR GOD'S SAKE, IS THAT ALL YOU GOT IN THAT HEAD A' YOURS?
CORKUS, AGAIN ...?
SHUT UP!!
LISTEN. WE'RE THE GUARD FOR THE AUTUMN HUNT. IT'S AN HONORABLE DUTY THAT UNTIL NOW HAS ALWAYS BEEN RESERVED FOR THE KINGDOM'S NATIVE-BORN WHITE DRAGON KNIGHTS!
IT'S A PRIVILEGE FOR JUST A CHOSEN FEW, AS IT WERE!!
WE'VE RUN AROUND COVERED IN MUD ON BATTLEFIELDS FOR SO MANY YEARS TO EARN THAT PRIVILEGE!! WE'VE RISKED OUR LIVES SO MANY TIMES!!
AND YOU... YOU SAY IT'S RIDICULOUS?!
CORKUS ...

KEH! IF YOU LIKE SWINGIN' YOUR SWORD THAT MUCH, DO IT ON YOUR OWN!
KILLIN' FOOL!
…… ……
…… ……

DO YOU DISLIKE HUNTING?

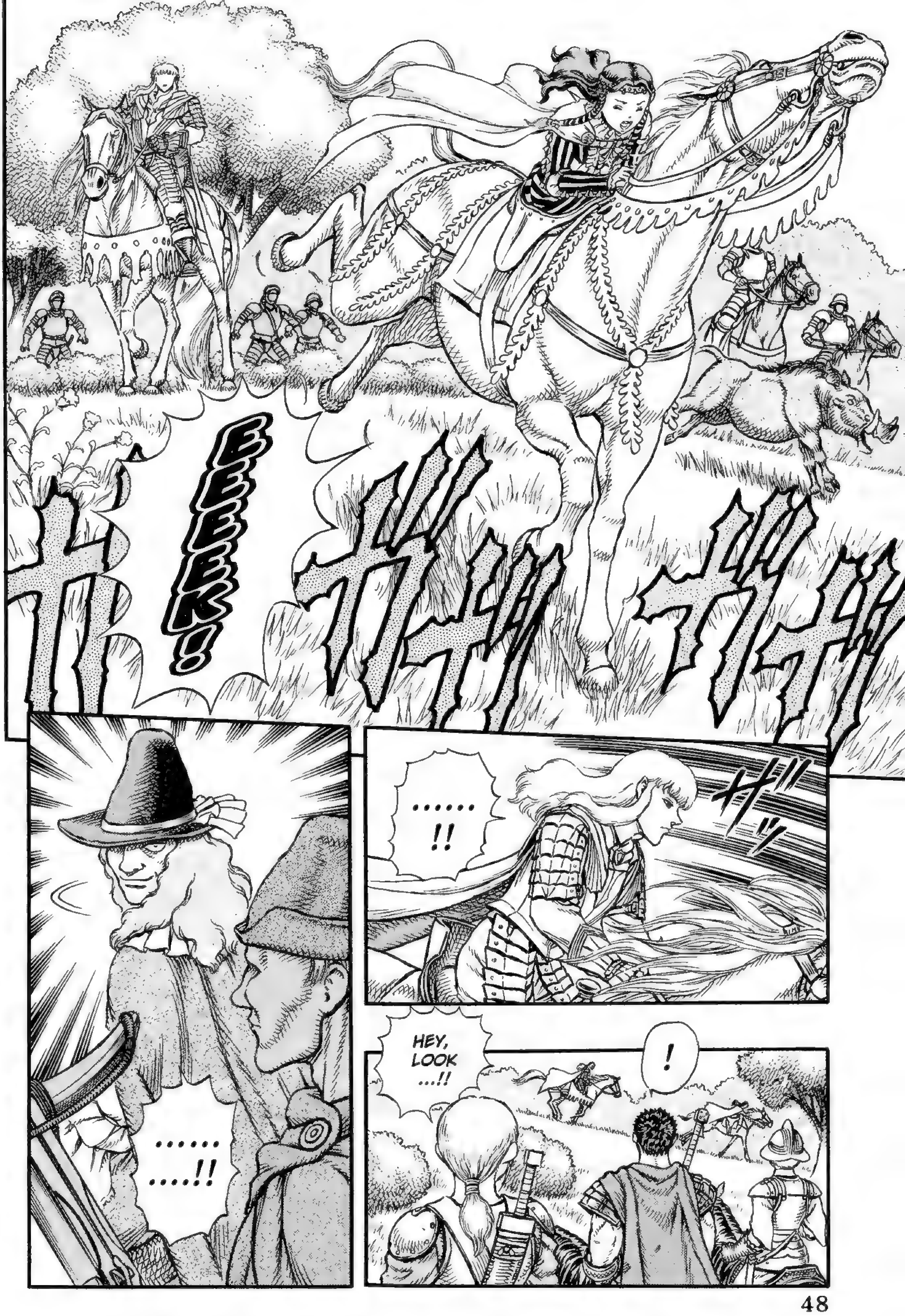
......
......
TODAY IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE COME TO THE HUNTING GROUNDS. MY FATHER INVITED ME, SO I FELT I *MUST* ACCOMPANY HIM.
BUT...I DO NOT THINK THAT I WILL GROW TO LIKE HUNTING.
IT IS *CRUEL.*
WAR IS THE SAME WAY... WHY IS IT THAT MEN ENJOY LITTLE MORE THAN SHEDDING BLOOD?
......

プチッ
?
?
プチン
パク
♪
MY.
……
……
フゥ〜

LIKE THIS.
HERE ...
ウ〜!
ム〜
...!!
クス

...
!
EXCELLENCY...
JUST WAIT.
BAH!
HIGH AND MIGHTY.

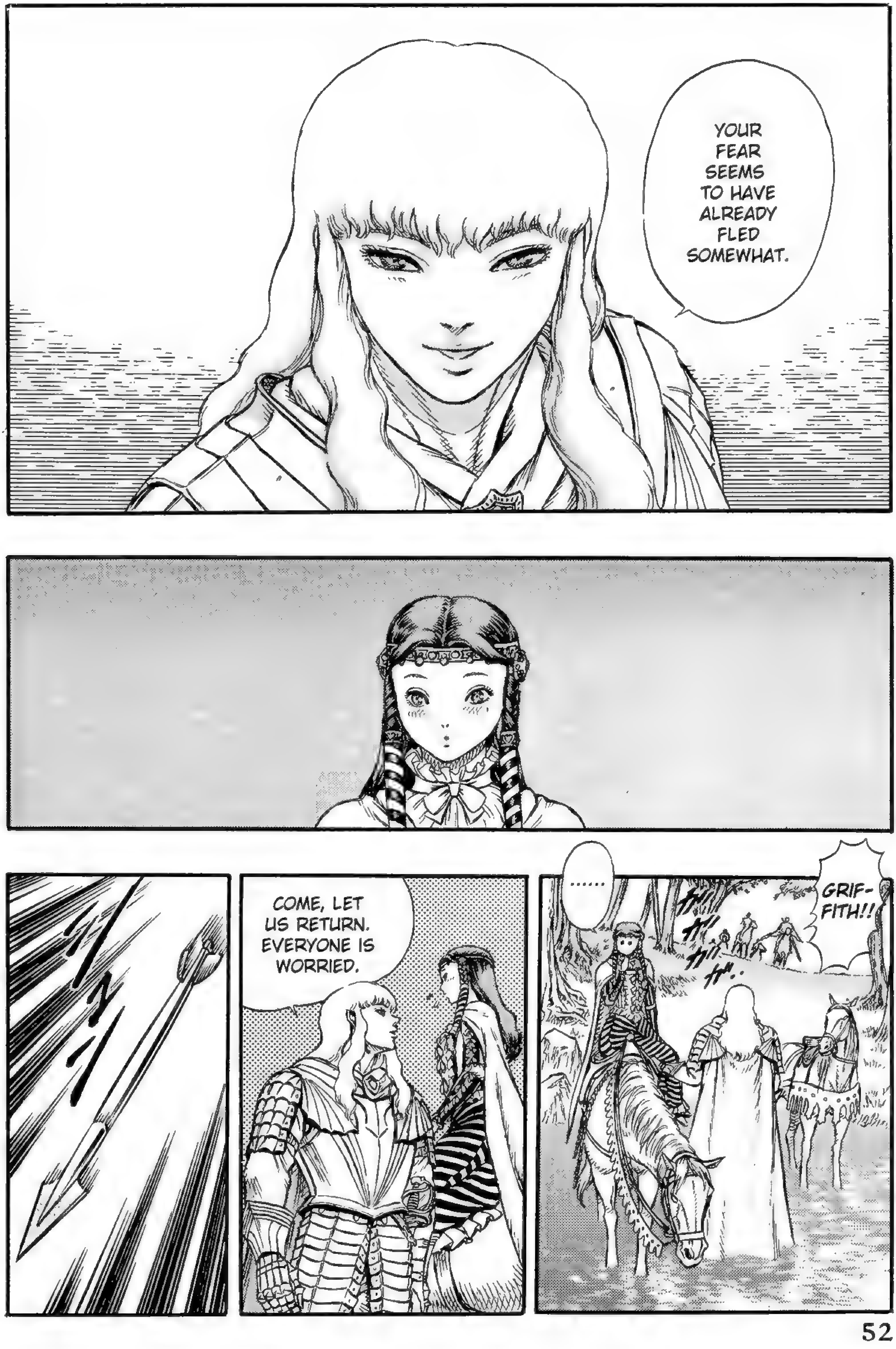
ザザザザザザ
WAIT FOR WHEN HE'S ALONE.
THE CHANCE WILL NO DOUBT COME.
DRIVE IT OUT!!
ガサ
ガサ
HEY, THERE IT IS!!
!
EEK!

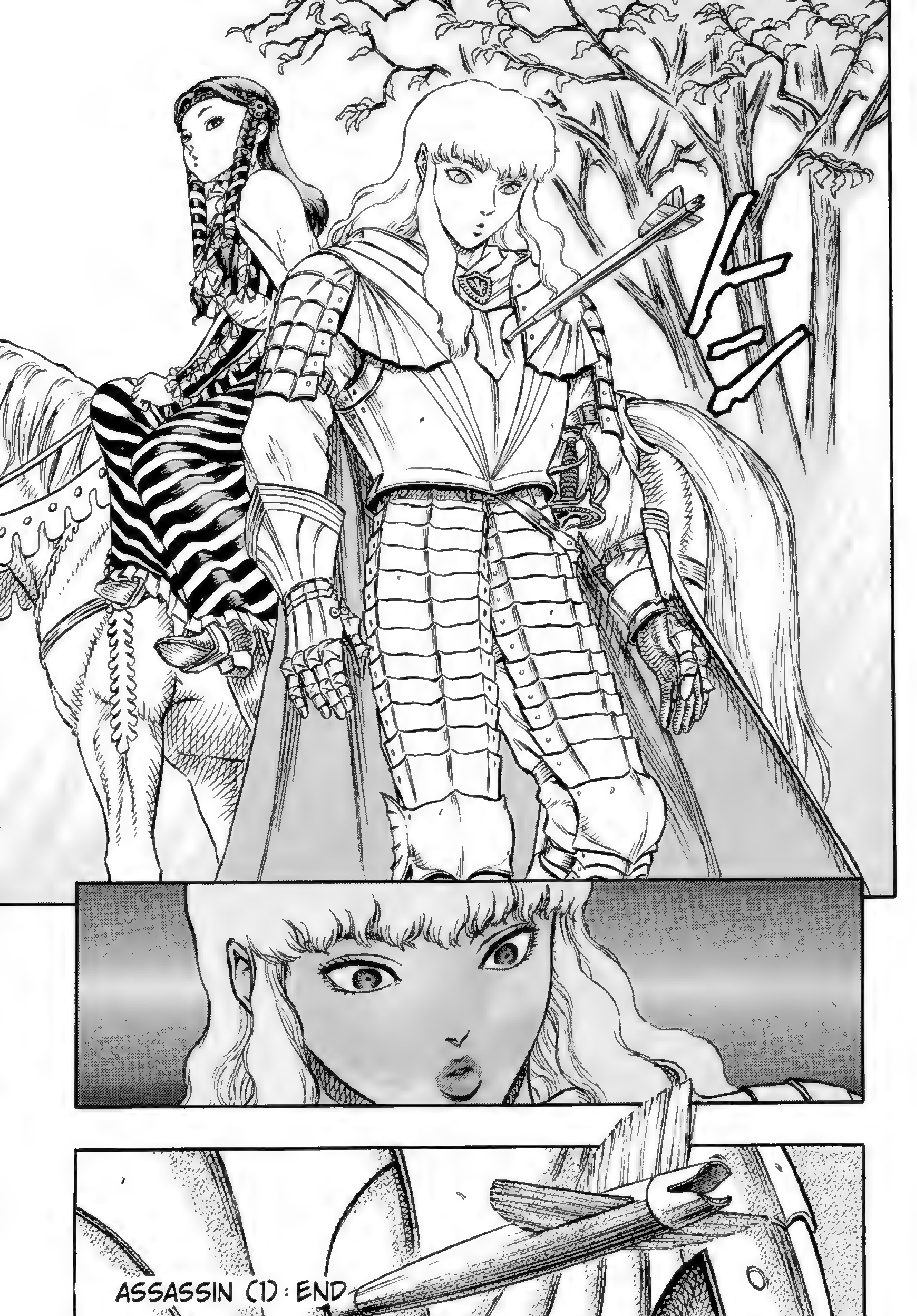

EEEEEK!
ガッ ガッ ガッ
ザッ
......!!
HEY, LOOK ...!!
!
......
....!!

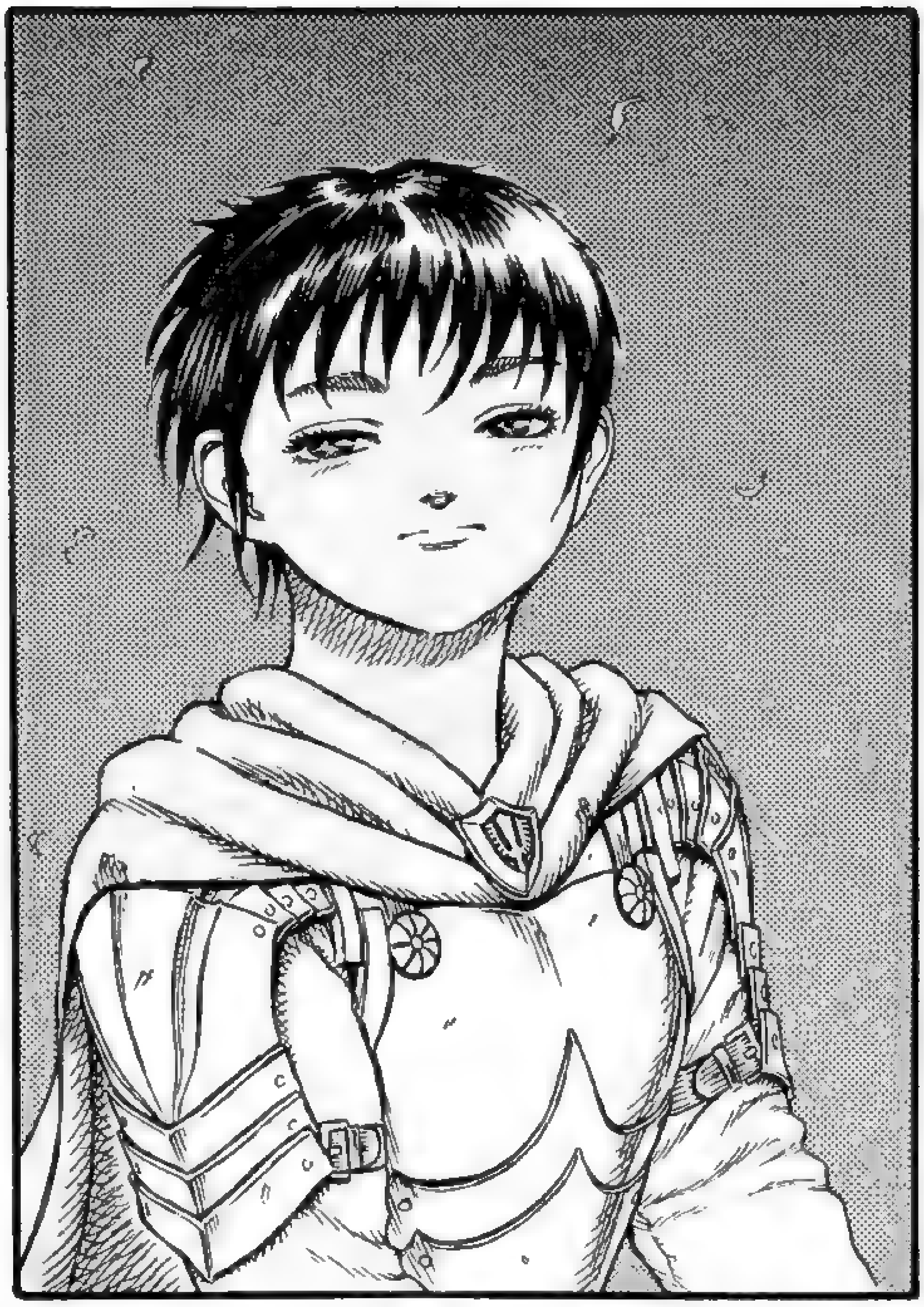
ガキーン
バシャアア
WHOA!
WHOA!
バシャ
バシャ

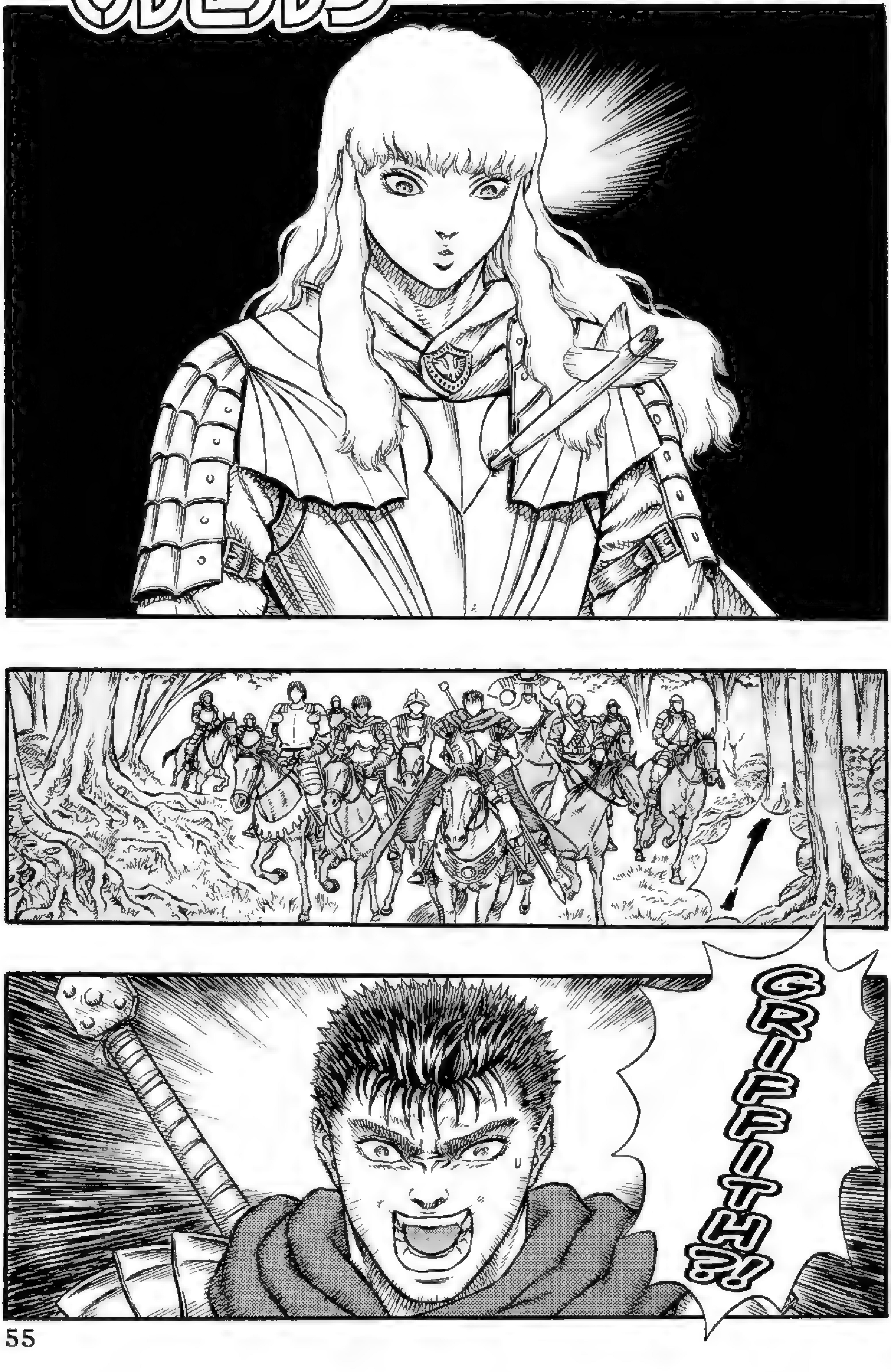
ザッ ザッ ザッ ザッ
IT IS ALL RIGHT N--
WHEW!
ガッ ガッ
......
....!!
ギリ

ARE YOU HURT AT ALL?
......
HMHM ...
AHA HAHA ...
?
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
PBT.
I...I WAS SCARED...
VERY SCARED...
WHAT A SHOCK...! MY HEART IS STILL POUNDING!
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON SUCH A WILD HORSE RIDE IN MY LIFE!
OH...


YOUR FEAR SEEMS TO HAVE ALREADY FLED SOMEWHAT.
GRIF-FITH!!
......
COME, LET US RETURN. EVERYONE IS WORRIED.


ASSASSIN (1): END



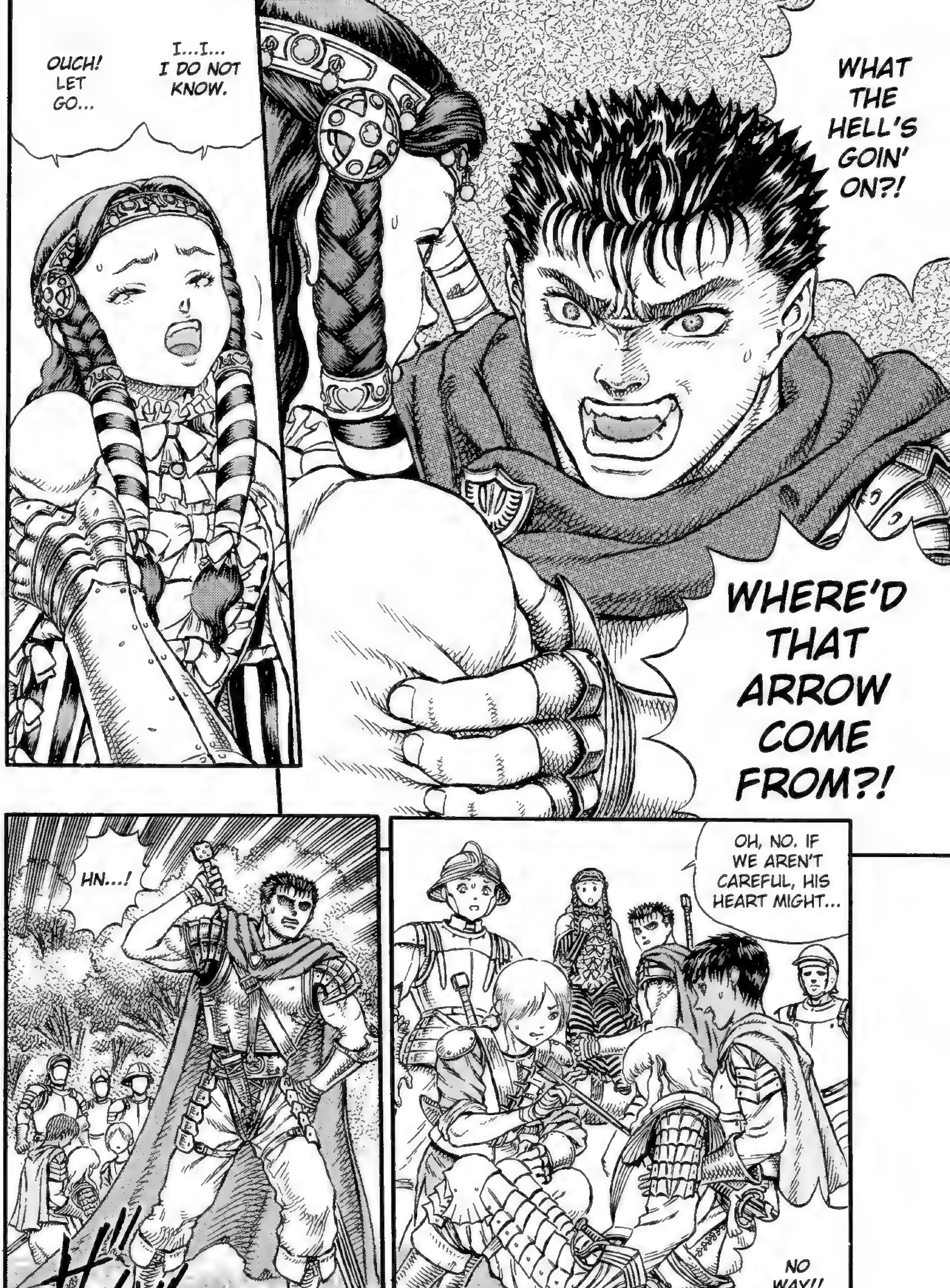

GRIFFITH?!

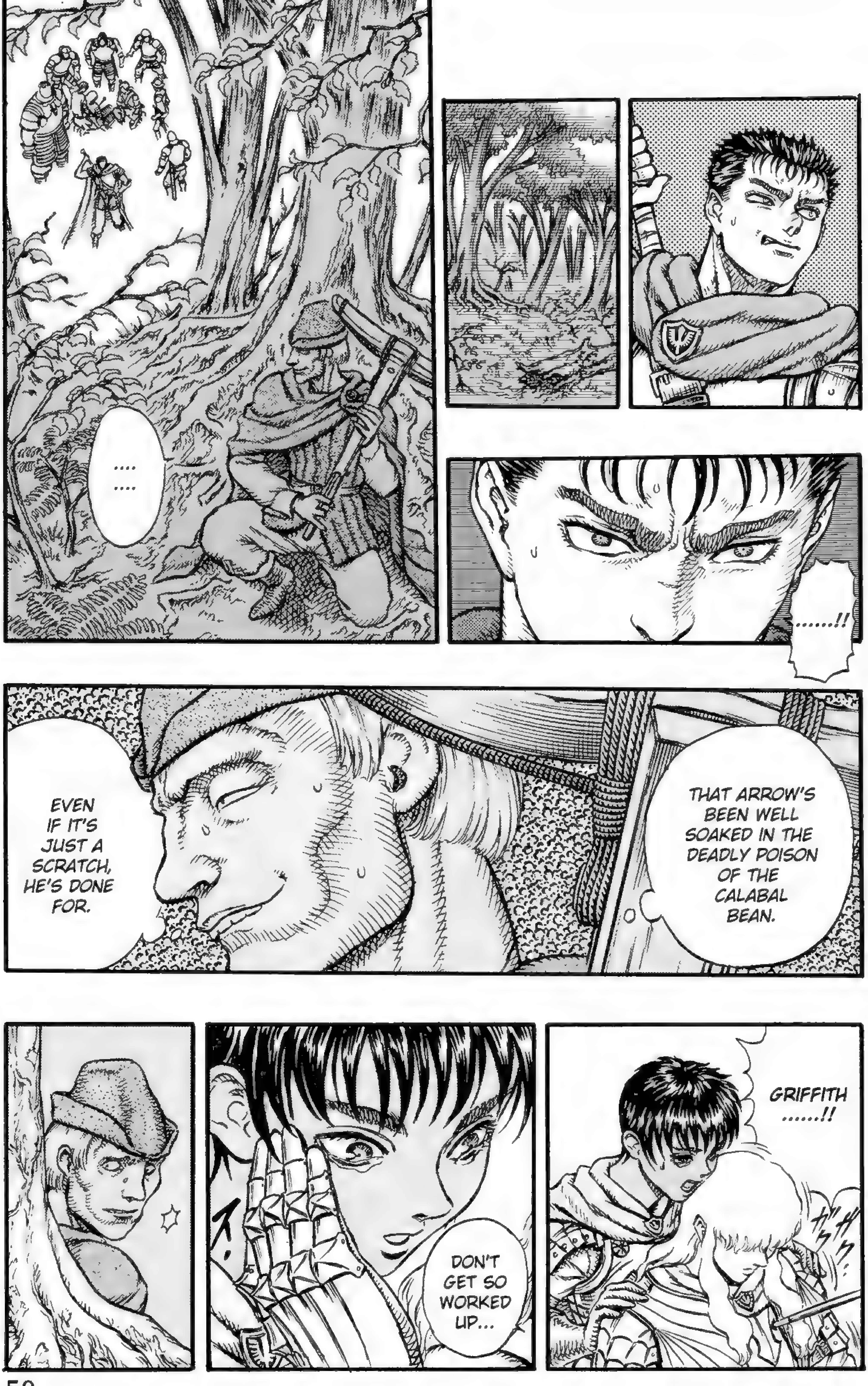
ベルセルク

暗殺者(2)

ASSASSIN
CHAPTER 2

KYAAAAAA!
GRIFFITH!!
....!!
GRIF-FITH!!
ARE YOU OKAY?! HANG ON!!
...AHH.
HEY!! PRINCESS!!


WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON?!
WHERE'D THAT ARROW COME FROM?!
OUCH! LET GO...
I...I... I DO NOT KNOW.
HN...!
OH, NO. IF WE AREN'T CAREFUL, HIS HEART MIGHT...
NO WAY!!


....
....
......!!
THAT ARROW'S BEEN WELL SOAKED IN THE DEADLY POISON OF THE CALABAL BEAN.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A SCRATCH, HE'S DONE FOR.
GRIFFITH ......!!
DON'T GET SO WORKED UP...

GRIFFITH!
?!
BUT THE ARROW!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
ズ
....
....
WHAT'S THAT?
POISON, I'D SAY.
AND A RATHER STRONG ONE...

THEN, WHY...
IT WAS THIS.
IT ACTED AS A SHIELD.
THE EGG...
...OF THE KING!!

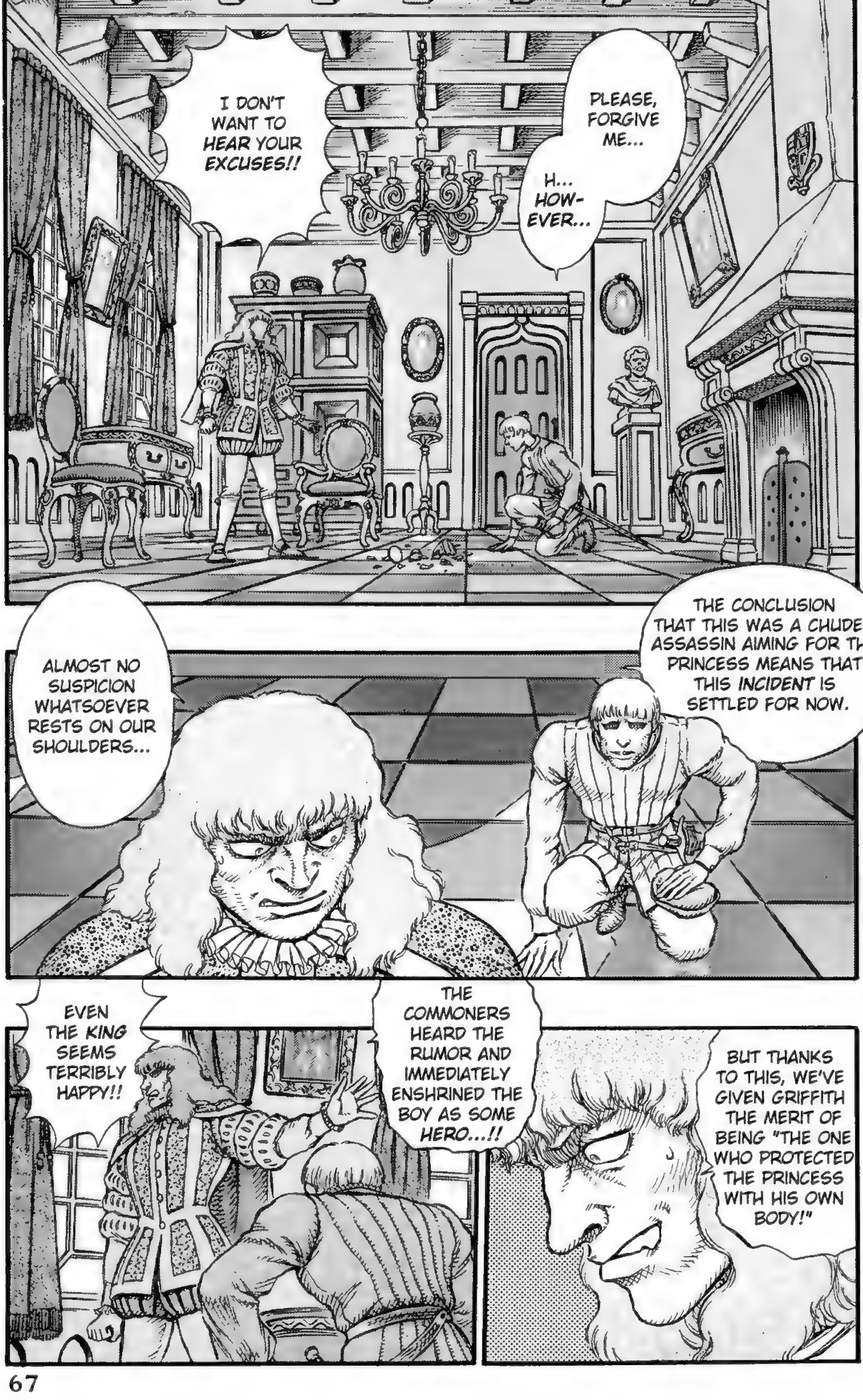
IS THAT THE NECKLACE YOU ALWAYS WEAR?
A-ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
GOOD GRIEF, THERE'S NO WAY!!
DO THINGS LIKE THAT EVEN HAPPEN?!
IT'S A MIRACLE!!
THE DEVIL'S OWN LUCK!!
REALLY...IT'S LITERALLY A GOOD LUCK CHARM.
DEVIL'S LUCK...
YEAH...
THIS IS NO ORDINARY "LUCK"......

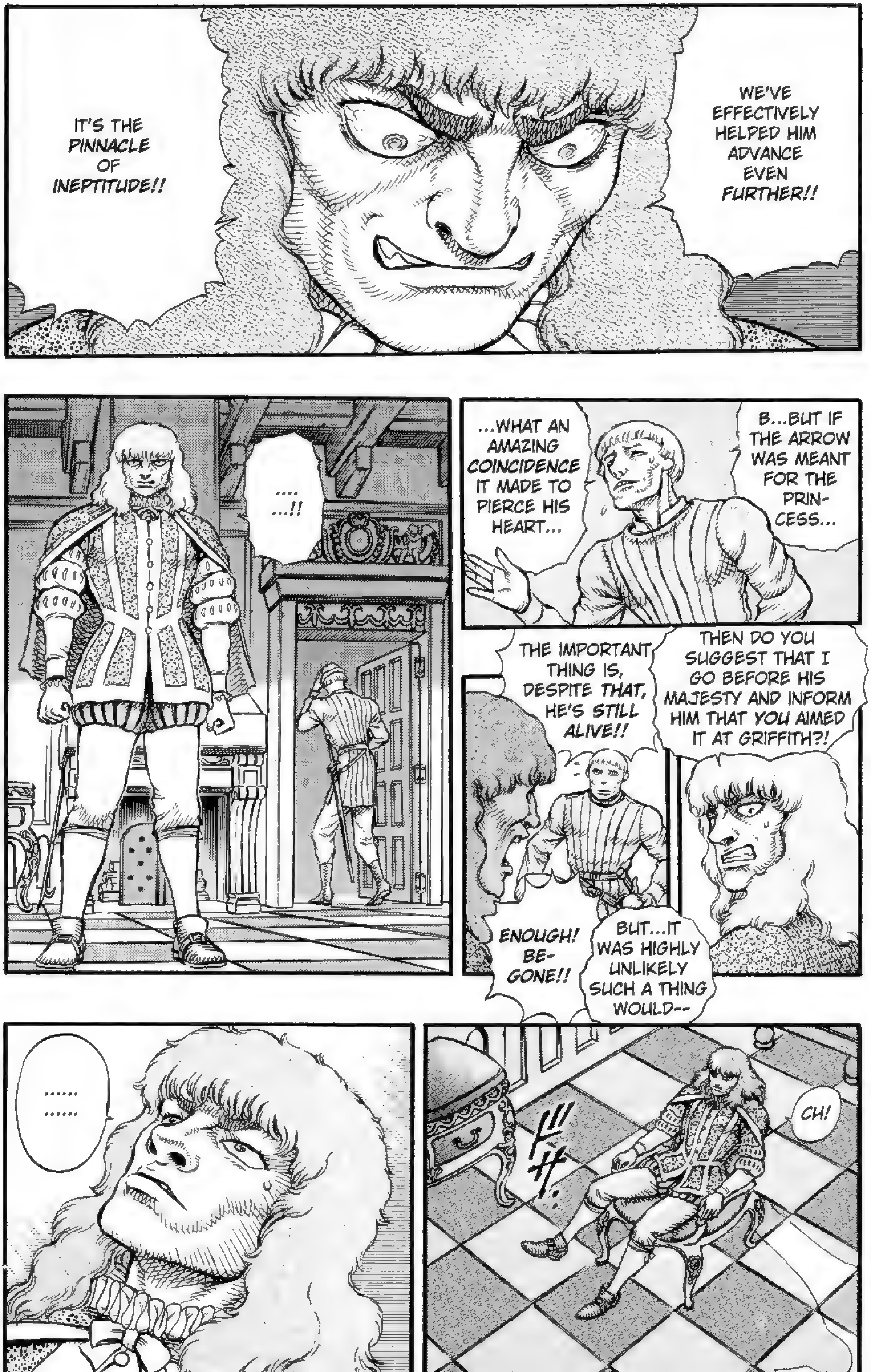
......
......
FEH!
GRIFFITH, YOU SHOULD TAKE OFF YOUR ARMOR...
WE HAVE TO SEE WHETHER YOU'RE INJURED...
I'M FINE. IT WAS REALLY NOTHING...
DON'T SAY THAT!!
IT WAS COATED IN POISON, RIGHT?!
THERE'S A RISK EVEN WITH A SMALL WOUND!!
....
....
I'M ALL RIGHT, HONESTLY. IT DIDN'T EVEN GRAZE ME.
BUT ...!!

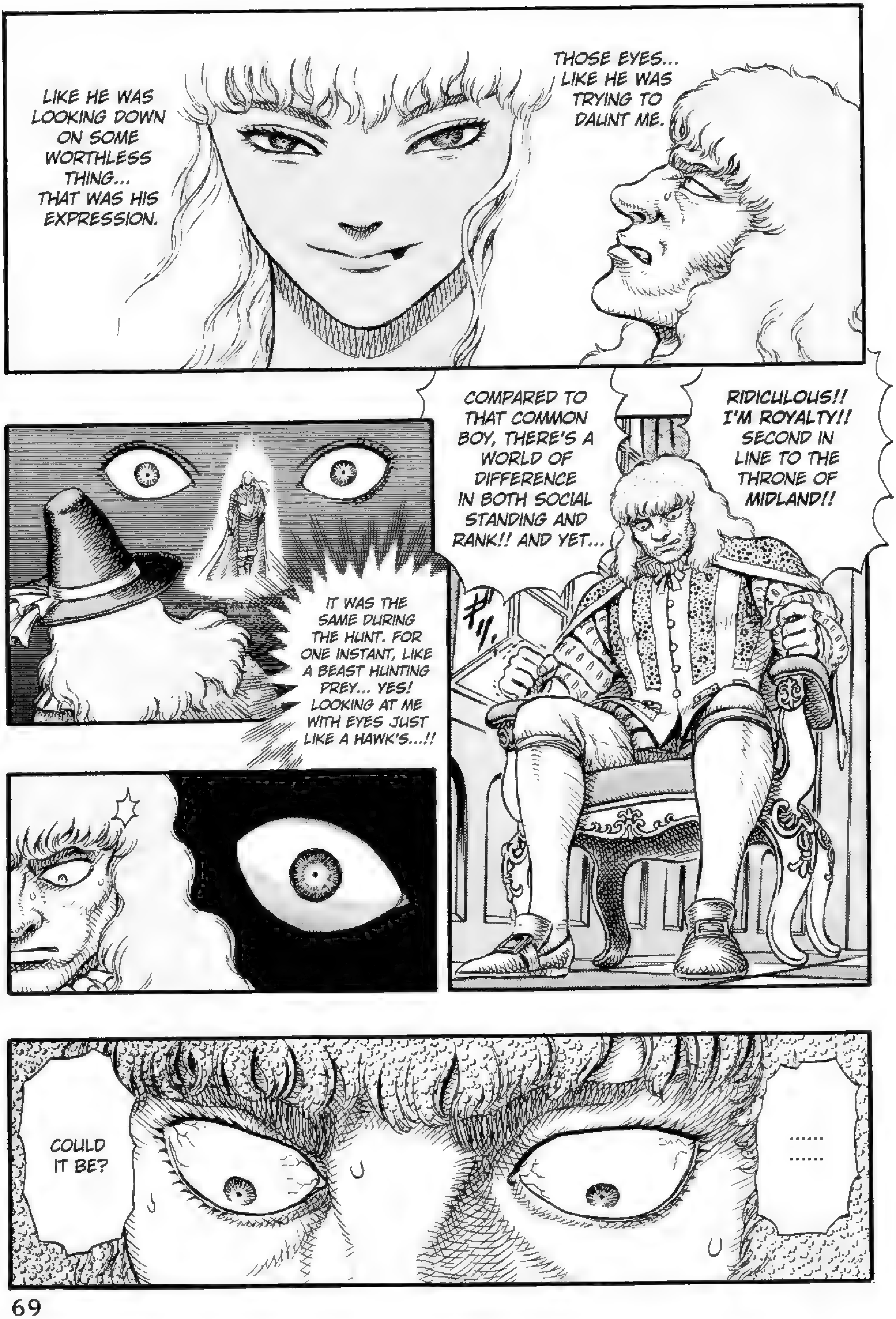
EX-CUSE ME...
I'M SORRY......
ポロ
IF...IF I HAD BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE A HORSE MORE ABLY...
...THIS WOULD NOT HAVE--
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT *YOU* AS WELL.
グスッ
....
ANYWAY, THOUGH, WHO DID THIS?! WHO OUT THERE WANTS OUR BOSS DEAD?!
LOWLIFE BASTARD... *WE'LL KILL HIM!!*
WAIT...WHAT IF THEY WERE AIMIN' FOR THE PRINCESS?
EITHER WAY, *WE CAN'T HAVE IT!!*
....

I'M GONNA SEARCH THE UNDERGROWTH AROUND HERE WITH MY MEN.
ザ!!
ザ!!
C'MON!! LET'S GO, GASTON!!
RIGHT NOW!
BAH!
A HIGH PRICE TO PAY...
EH?

...FOR THIS POISON.
WINDHAM CASTLE
ガシャーン
THAT WAS PATHETIC!

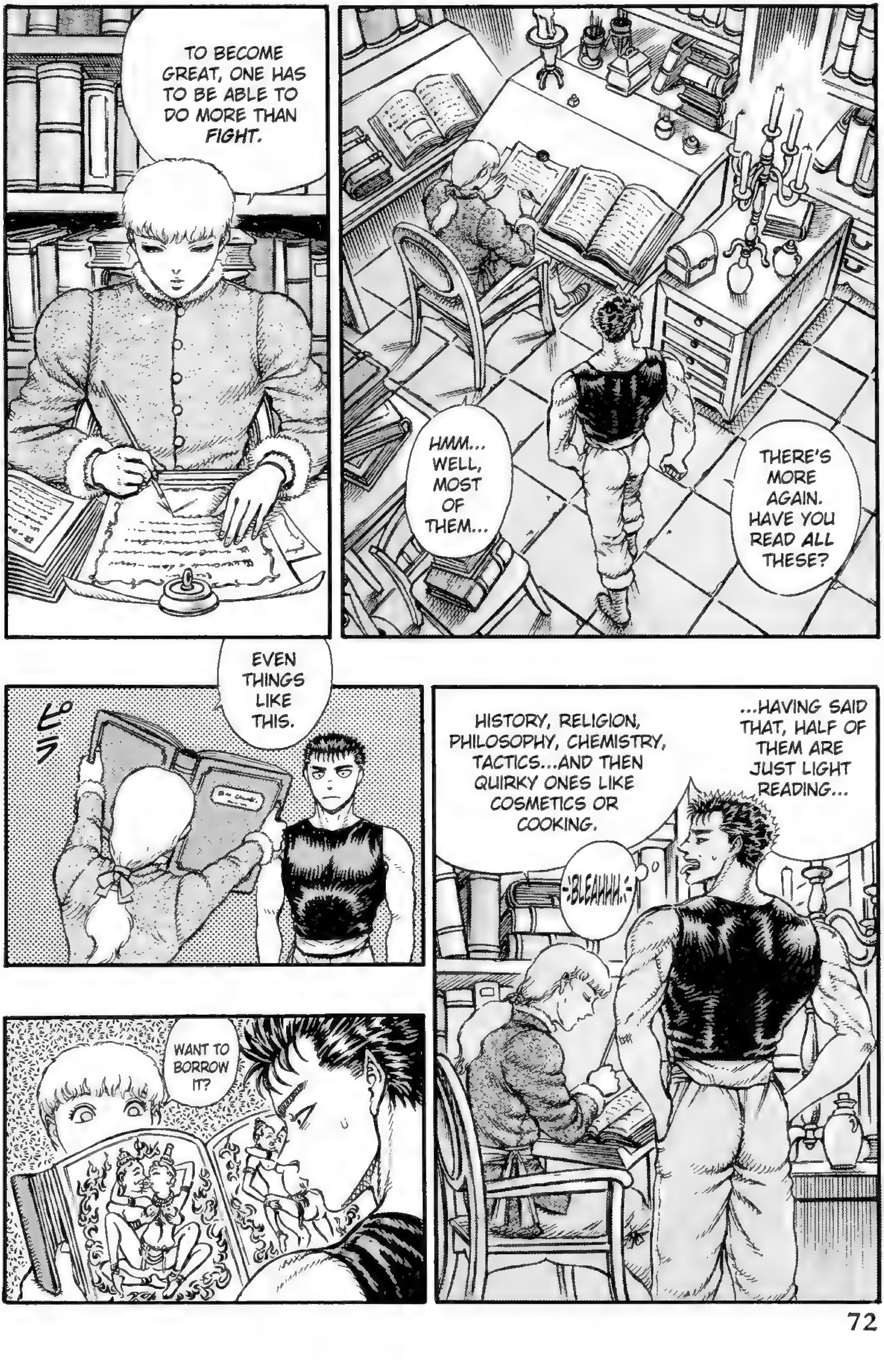

PLEASE, FORGIVE ME...
H... HOW-EVER...
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!!
THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS WAS A CHUDER ASSASSIN AIMING FOR THE PRINCESS MEANS THAT THIS INCIDENT IS SETTLED FOR NOW.
ALMOST NO SUSPICION WHATSOEVER RESTS ON OUR SHOULDERS...
BUT THANKS TO THIS, WE'VE GIVEN GRIFFITH THE MERIT OF BEING "THE ONE WHO PROTECTED THE PRINCESS WITH HIS OWN BODY!"
THE COMMONERS HEARD THE RUMOR AND IMMEDIATELY ENSHRINED THE BOY AS SOME HERO...!!
EVEN THE KING SEEMS TERRIBLY HAPPY!!


IT'S THE PINNACLE OF INEPTITUDE!!
WE'VE EFFECTIVELY HELPED HIM ADVANCE EVEN FURTHER!!
...WHAT AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE IT MADE TO PIERCE HIS HEART...
B...BUT IF THE ARROW WAS MEANT FOR THE PRINCESS...
THE IMPORTANT THING IS, DESPITE THAT, HE'S STILL ALIVE!!
THEN DO YOU SUGGEST THAT I GO BEFORE HIS MAJESTY AND INFORM HIM THAT YOU AIMED IT AT GRIFFITH?!
BUT...IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY SUCH A THING WOULD--
ENOUGH! BEGONE!!
....!!
....
ドサッ
CH!

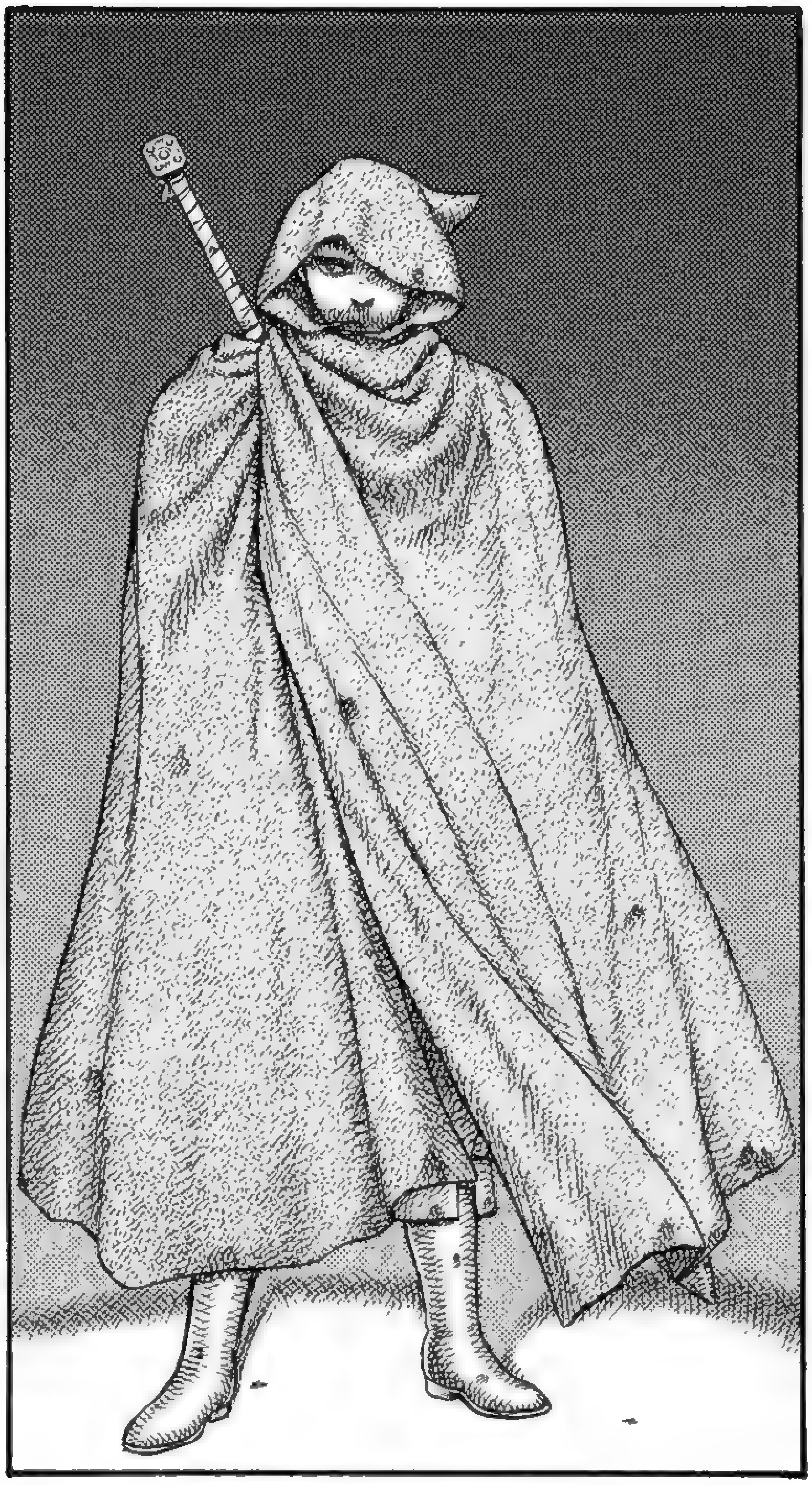

THOSE EYES... LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO DAUNT ME.
LIKE HE WAS LOOKING DOWN ON SOME WORTHLESS THING... THAT WAS HIS EXPRESSION.
RIDICULOUS!! I'M ROYALTY!! SECOND IN LINE TO THE THRONE OF MIDLAND!!
COMPARED TO THAT COMMON BOY, THERE'S A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE IN BOTH SOCIAL STANDING AND RANK!! AND YET...
ガッ
IT WAS THE SAME DURING THE HUNT. FOR ONE INSTANT, LIKE A BEAST HUNTING PREY... YES! LOOKING AT ME WITH EYES JUST LIKE A HAWK'S...!!
....
COULD IT BE?

NO, IT COULDN'T ...
THE OTHER LORDS WERE PRESENT, TOO... IT WAS JUST OUR EYES MEETING FOR AN INSTANT...
ABOVE ALL, THERE ISN'T ANY PROOF.
....
IT COULDN'T BE...

ガチャ
HI.
SORRY TO CALL YOU UP SO LATE.
WAIT THERE A MINUTE. I'LL BE DONE SHORTLY.
....
....


THERE'S MORE AGAIN. HAVE YOU READ ALL THESE?
HMM... WELL, MOST OF THEM...
TO BECOME GREAT, ONE HAS TO BE ABLE TO DO MORE THAN FIGHT.
...HAVING SAID THAT, HALF OF THEM ARE JUST LIGHT READING...
HISTORY, RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, CHEMISTRY, TACTICS...AND THEN QUIRKY ONES LIKE COSMETICS OR COOKING.
:BLEAHHH.:
EVEN THINGS LIKE THIS.
ピラ
WANT TO BORROW IT?

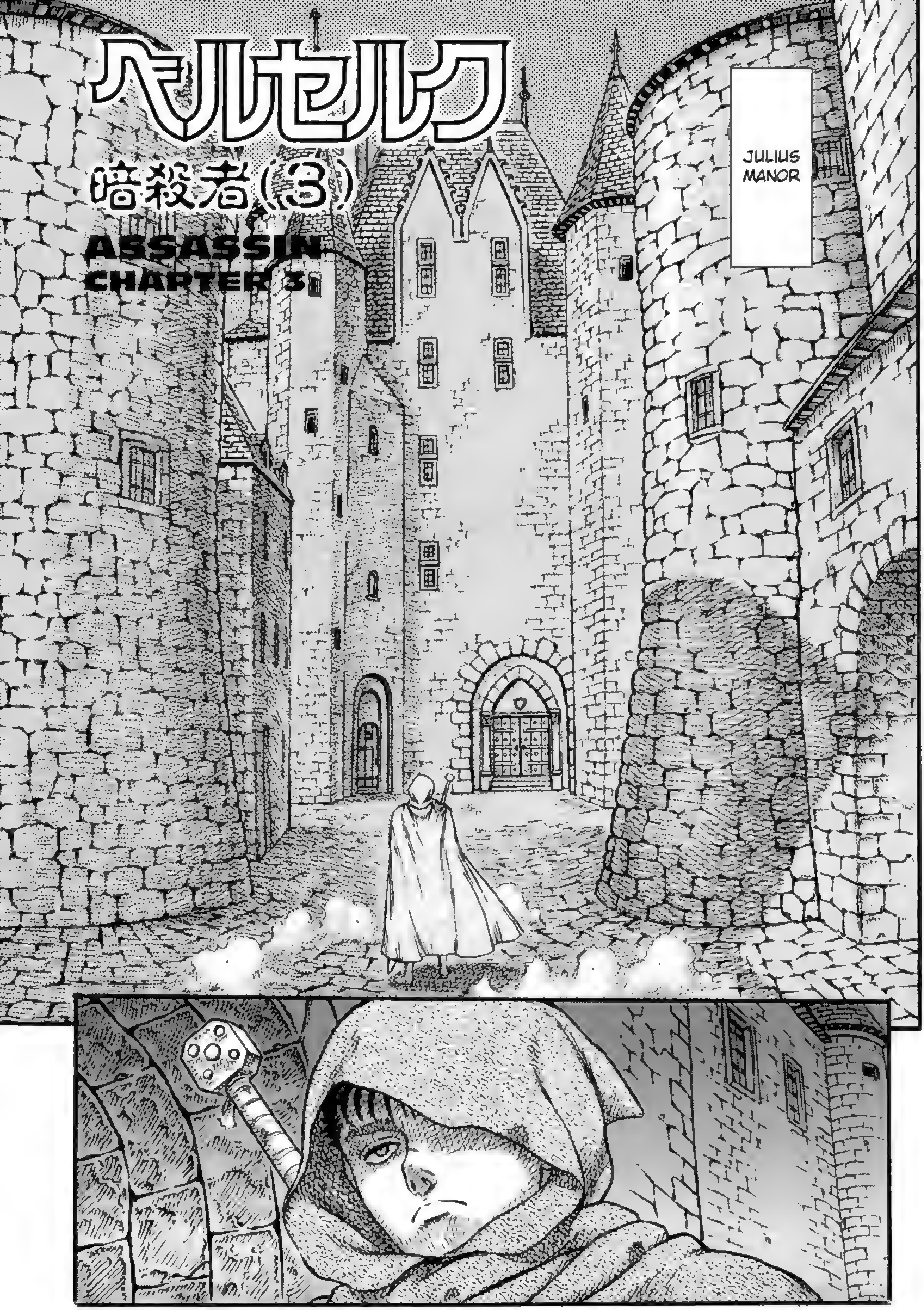
SO, YOU NEED ME TO DO SOMETHING?
HNNN...
....
....
I'D LIKE YOU TO...
...KILL A MAN FOR ME.
ASSASSIN (2): END

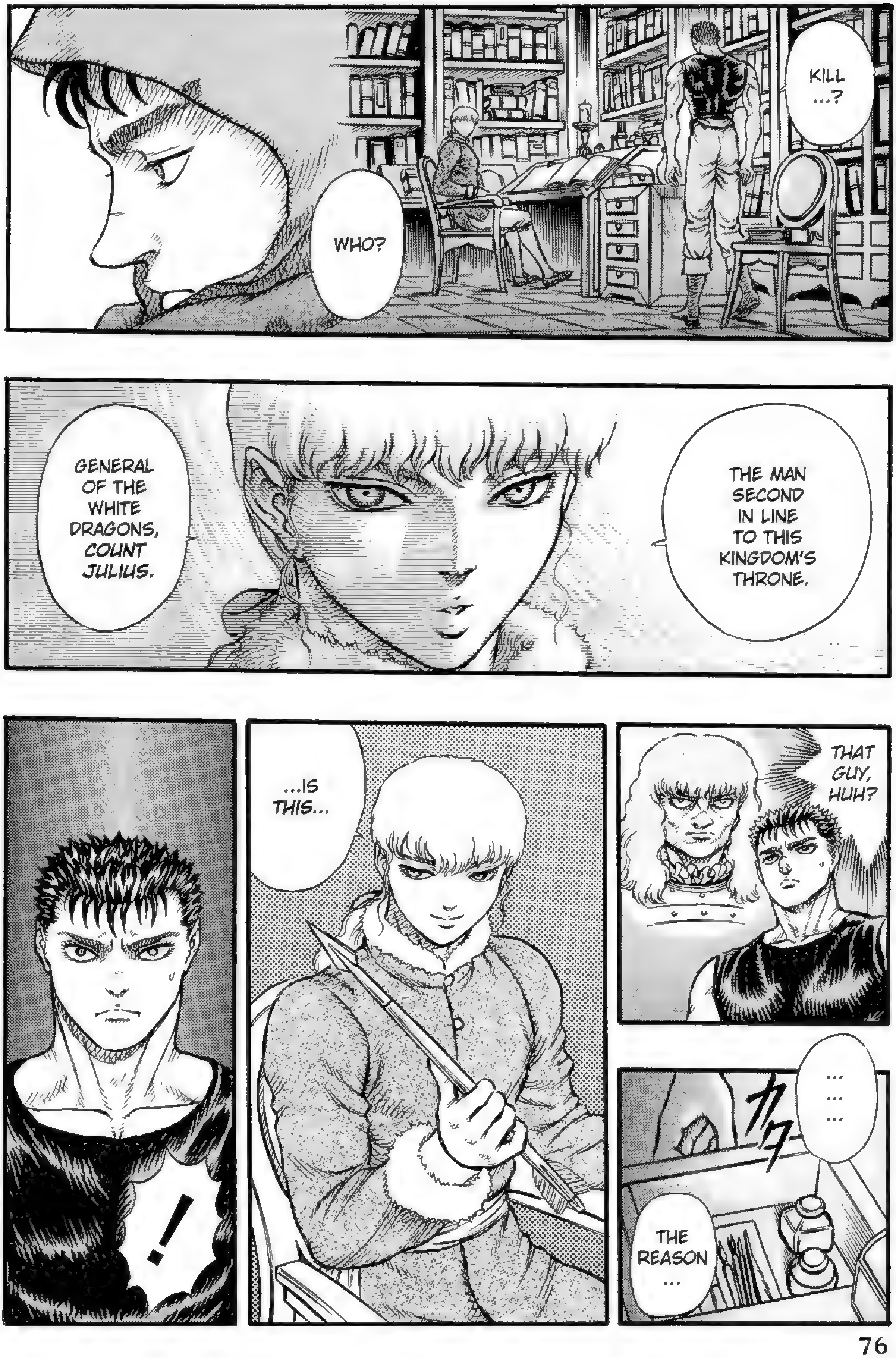


ベルセルク

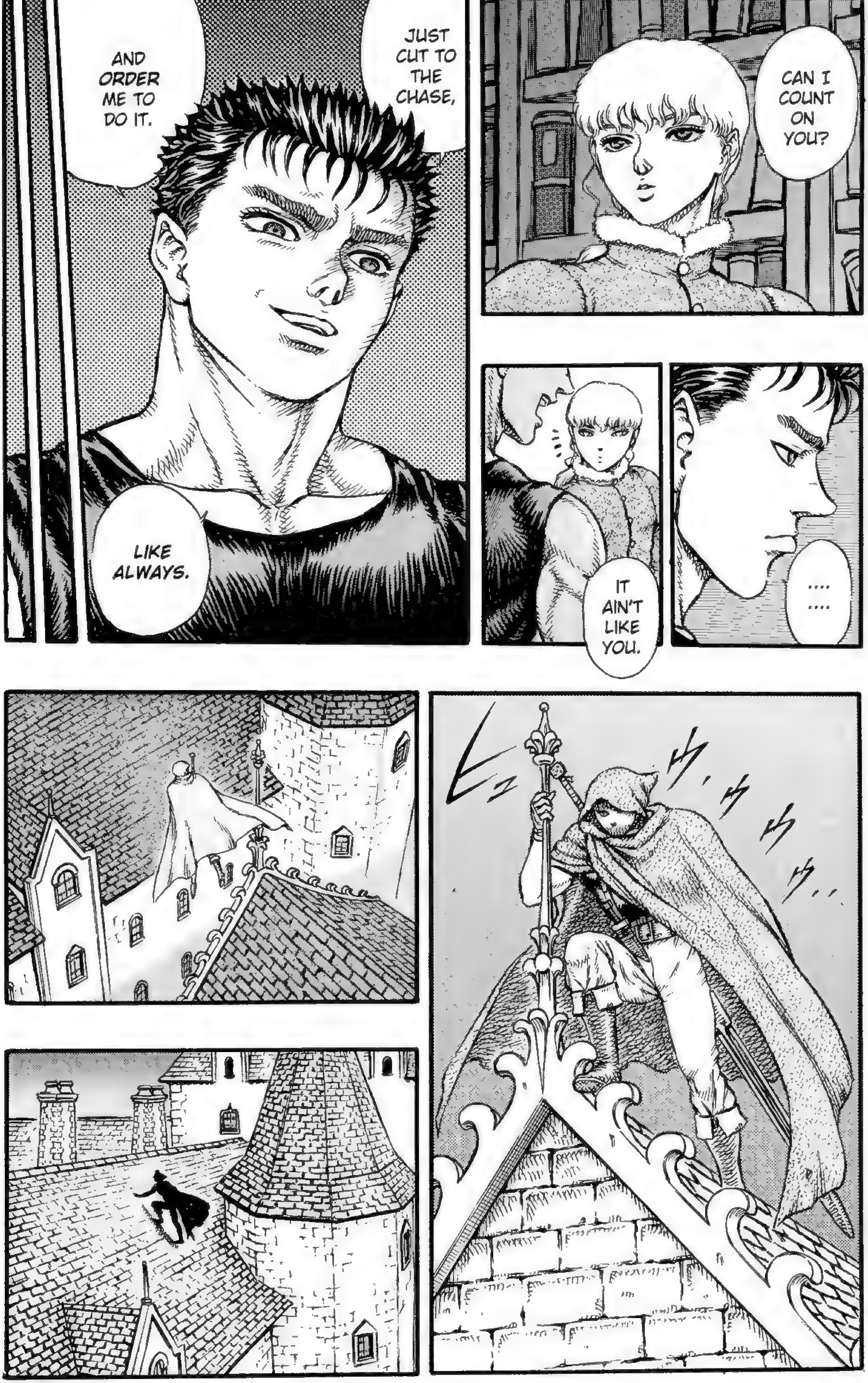
暗殺者(3)

ASSASSIN CHAPTER 3


JULIUS MANOR


KILL ...?
WHO?
THE MAN SECOND IN LINE TO THIS KINGDOM'S THRONE.
GENERAL OF THE WHITE DRAGONS, COUNT JULIUS.
THAT GUY, HUH?
... ...
カク
THE REASON ...
...IS THIS...
!

THIS ARROW'S COATED WITH AN EXTRACT OF THE *CALABAL BEAN.*
AN ORDINARY PERSON WOULD NEVER TYPICALLY POSSESS IT... AS POISONS GO, IT'S *HIGHLY* DEADLY.
I CHECKED WITH EACH DOCTOR IN TOWN, AND ONLY ONE OF THEM HANDLES THIS.
FURTHERMORE, ONLY ONE PERSON HAS PURCHASED IT RECENTLY... APPARENTLY, THE MAN SAID TO BE THE BEST BOWMAN AMONG THE WHITE DRAGONS.
"I PAID OFF ONE OF THE MAIDS TO INVESTIGATE HIM."
"THIS EVENING, SHE HAPPENED TO SEE HIM COMING OUT OF COUNT JULIUS' OFFICE LOOKING LIKE HE'D BEEN SEVERELY BERATED."
....
SHE WASN'T ABLE TO CATCH ANY DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATION...
BUT THEY WERE DISCUSSING THE DISTURBANCE OF THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.
....
I STILL HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT THIS WITH ANYONE.
...IT'S FOR THOSE REASONS...
...THAT I'M ASKING *YOU* TO DO THIS.
THIS IS...
...AN *ASSASS-INATION.*
IT'S FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM CROSSING SWORDS WITH AN ENEMY IN BATTLE.
IT'S DIRTY WORK. FAILURE ISN'T PERMISSIBLE AT ALL, NOR IS YOUR FACE BEING SEEN.


CAN I COUNT ON YOU?
JUST CUT TO THE CHASE,
AND ORDER ME TO DO IT.
LIKE ALWAYS.
....
IT AIN'T LIKE YOU.

HAH!
!
LUCKY ME.
JULIUS ...
!

WHO'S THAT KID?
STAND!!
......!!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!
YOU CALL YOURSELF A SON OF ROYALTY?!

NOW STAND UP!! STOP RESTING!!
YOUR ENEMY WON'T WAIT FOR YOU IN BATTLE!!
HIGHNESS... PLEASE, LET THAT BE ENOUGH FOR TODAY...
BEGONE WITH YOU, HASSAN!!
ADONIS MUST SOMEDAY BECOME THE LEADER OF MY WHITE DRAGON KNIGHTS AND COMMAND THE MIGHTIEST FORCE IN THE LAND!!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL!! AS ROYALTY HE MAY POSSIBLY WED PRINCESS CHARLOTTE AND GAIN CONTROL OF ALL OF MIDLAND!!
IT'S WHAT A SON OF ROYALTY IS DESTINED TO DO!!
THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS DUTY IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT WHICH BEFALLS OTHER MEN!!
COME AT ME!!
TRY TO GET THROUGH MY DEFENSES AT LEAST ONCE!!
…… ……
ああ
あああ

ドガァァァ
......
VERY WELL...
ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
......
......
バサ
!
DON'T COOL DOWN TOO MUCH.
IT AFFECTS TOMORROW'S TRAINING.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THAT IS A GRIEVOUS WOUND. I WILL TEND IT RIGHT AWAY.
…. ….
YOUNG MASTER, DO NOT BE DISHEARTENED.
EVER SINCE THE COUNTESS DIED, YOUR FATHER HAS TRIED **DESPERATELY** TO DO ALL HE CAN ON HIS OWN TO RAISE YOU AS A KNIGHT.
PLEASE DO NOT **RESENT** HIS ACTIONS.
…… ……
…… ……

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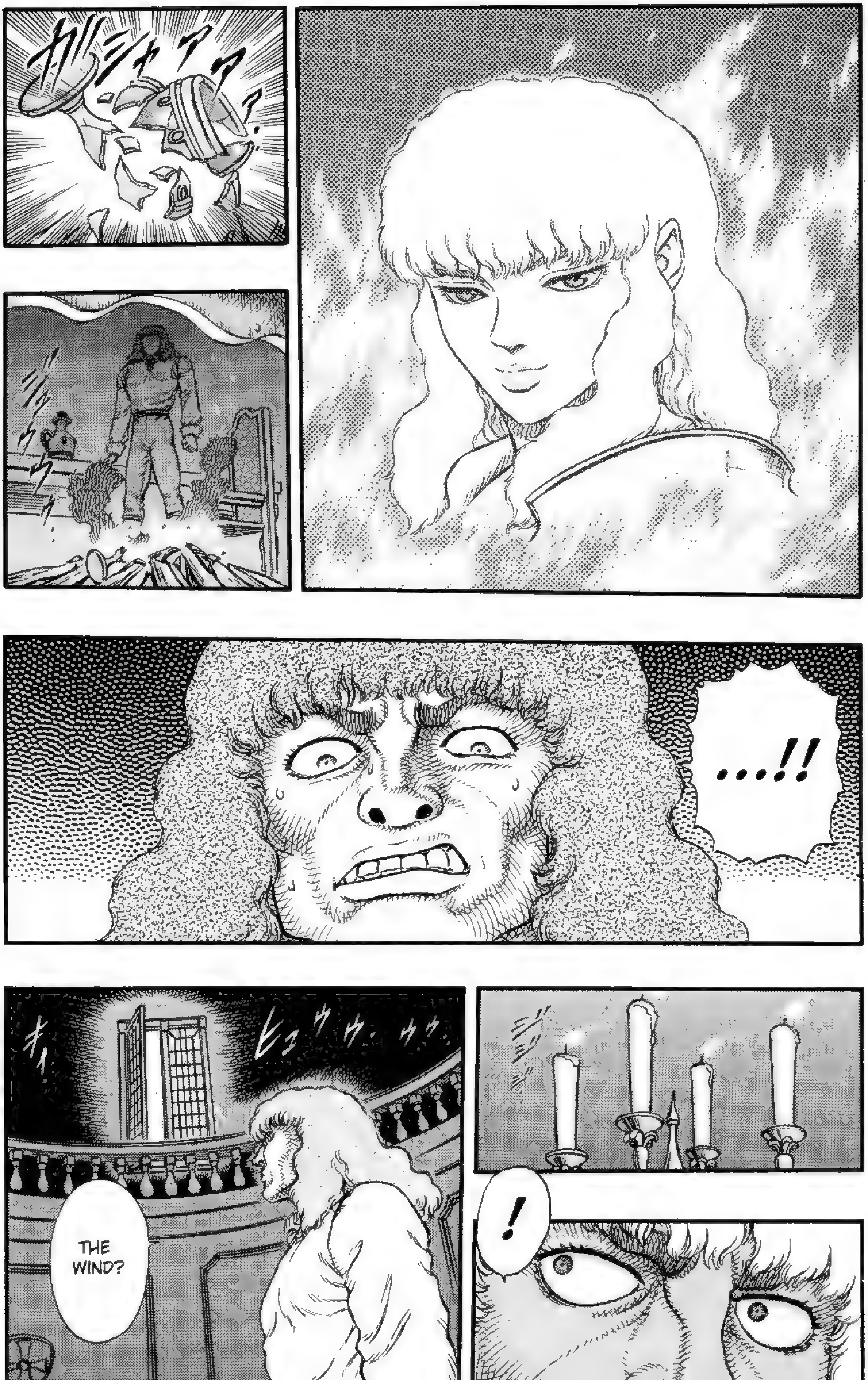
ブ
CH!
CAN'T BE CARELESS AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
ヒュオォォ
オォォォ

YOUR HIGHNESS. I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT IF YOU COULD JUST BE A BIT GENTLER WITH THE YOUNG MASTER......
DOUBTLESS HE BEARS THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF ROYALTY...BUT MASTER *ADONIS* IS ONLY THIRTEEN, AND HE MUST MISS HIS MOTHER SO.
BEGGING YOUR PARDON ...
THIS FIERCE TRAINING THESE PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OFF THE MARK.
YES, I *UNDERSTAND!* YOU MAY GO, *HASSAN!*
I'VE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL WITH MY DUTIES IN THE CASTLE LATELY.
MAYBE MY FRUSTRATIONS GOT THE BEST OF ME A BIT...
I EARNESTLY HOPE YOU WILL NOT BE UNREASONABLE...
....


ガシャアアァ
ジュウウ…
...!!
ジ…
ヒュウウ… ウウ
オォ
THE WIND?
!

ビクン

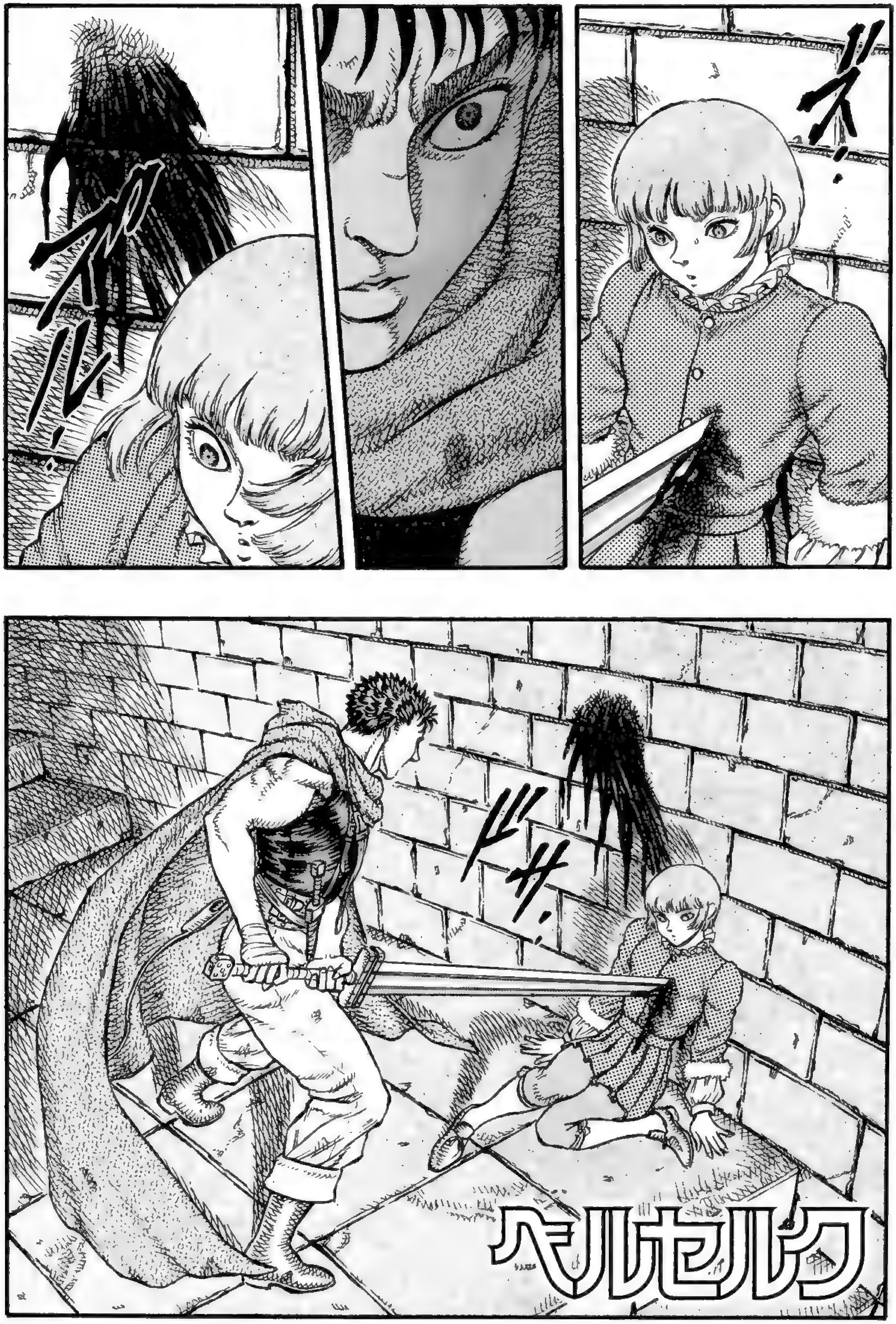
AN...
AN INTRUDER ...?!
スス
HN...!!
...!!

...=NGH=...
...!!
... I ...
I KNOW YOU...
YOU'RE ...
...GRIFFITH'S ...

ガッ
ガッ
バタ
……
……
UM...
!

AN...
... INTRUDER?!
ザッ
CH!
I'VE BEEN SEEN...
ドカァァッ

ASSASSIN (3): END

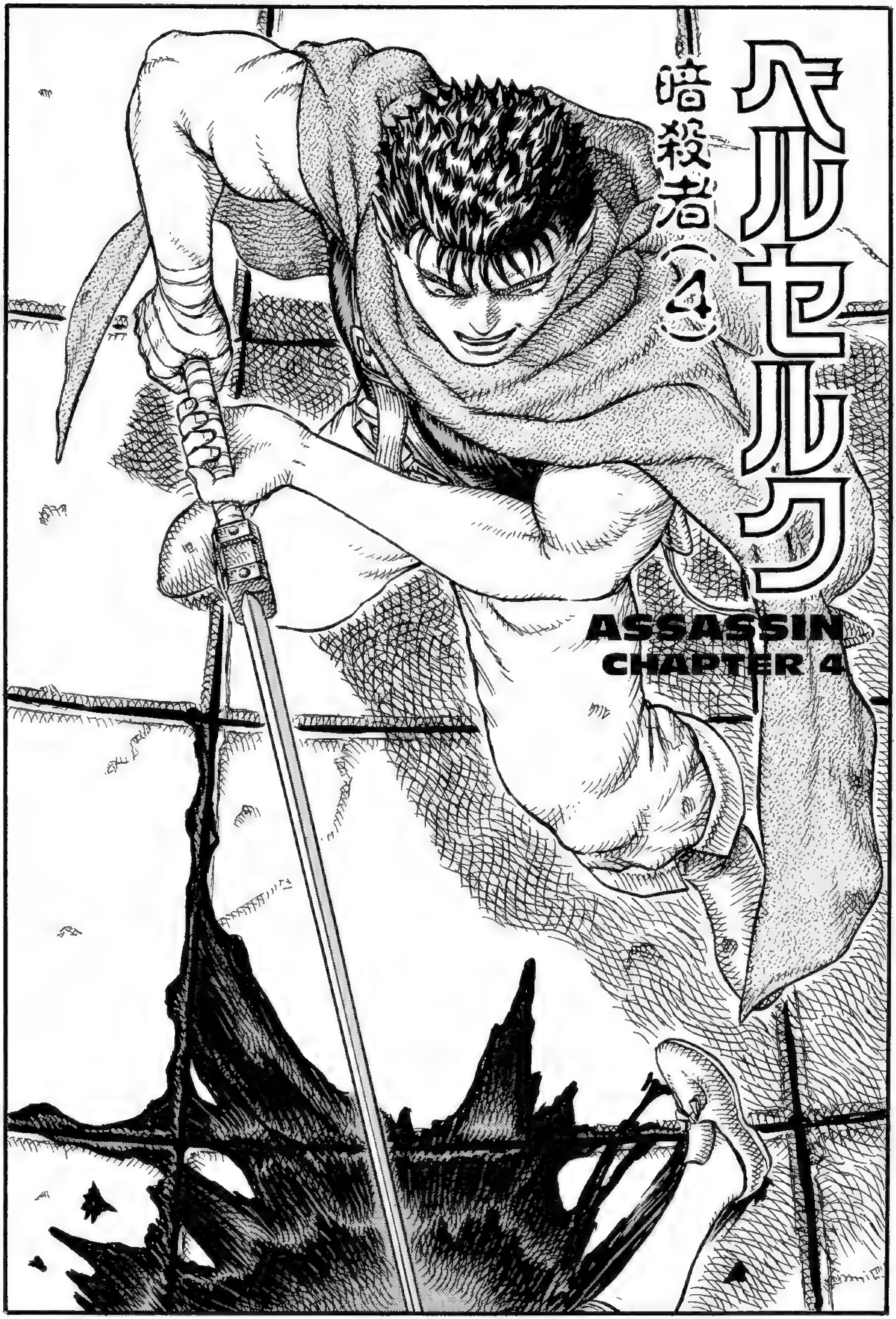


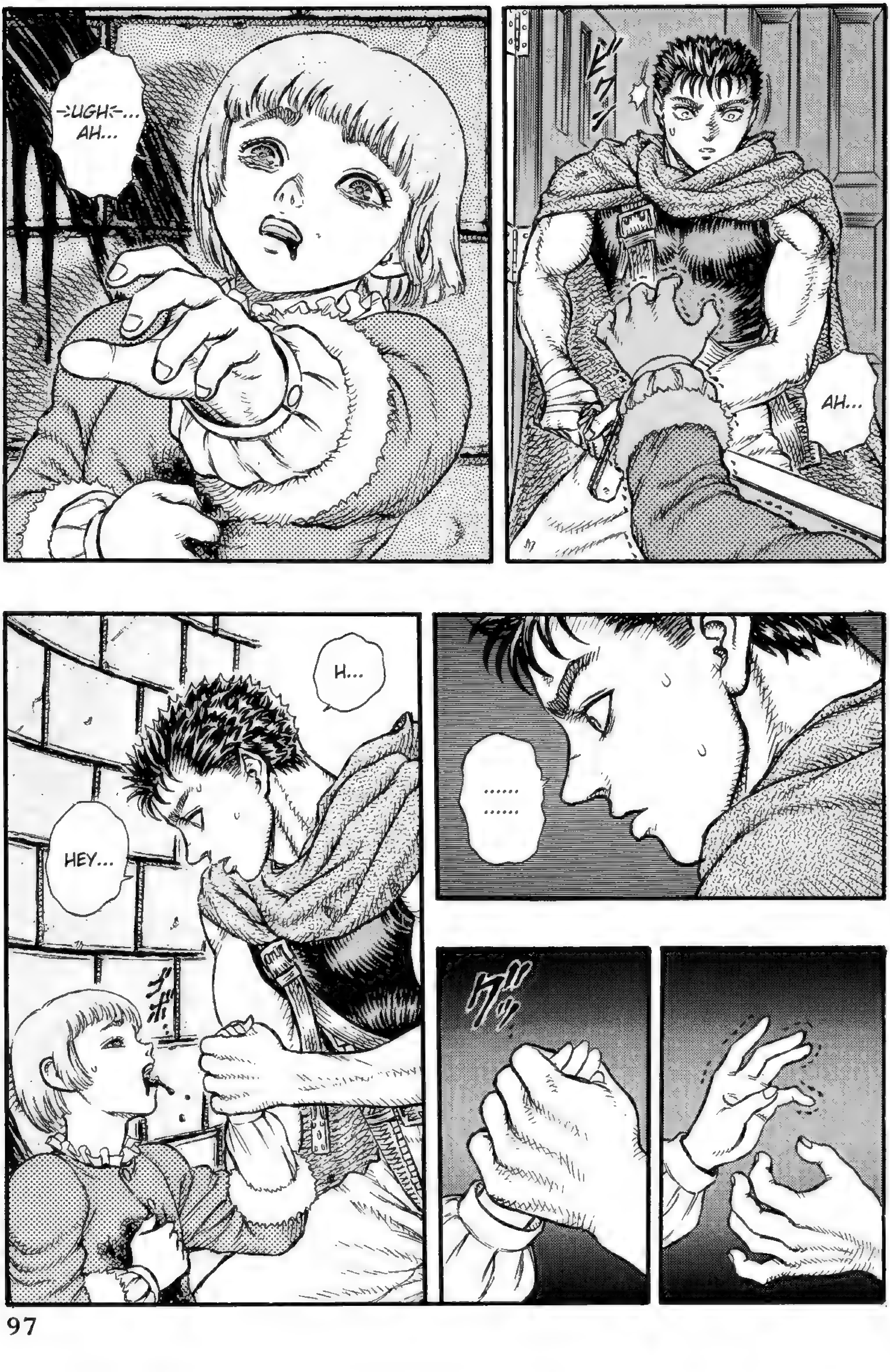
ズイ！
ズル！
ドサ！
ベルセルク

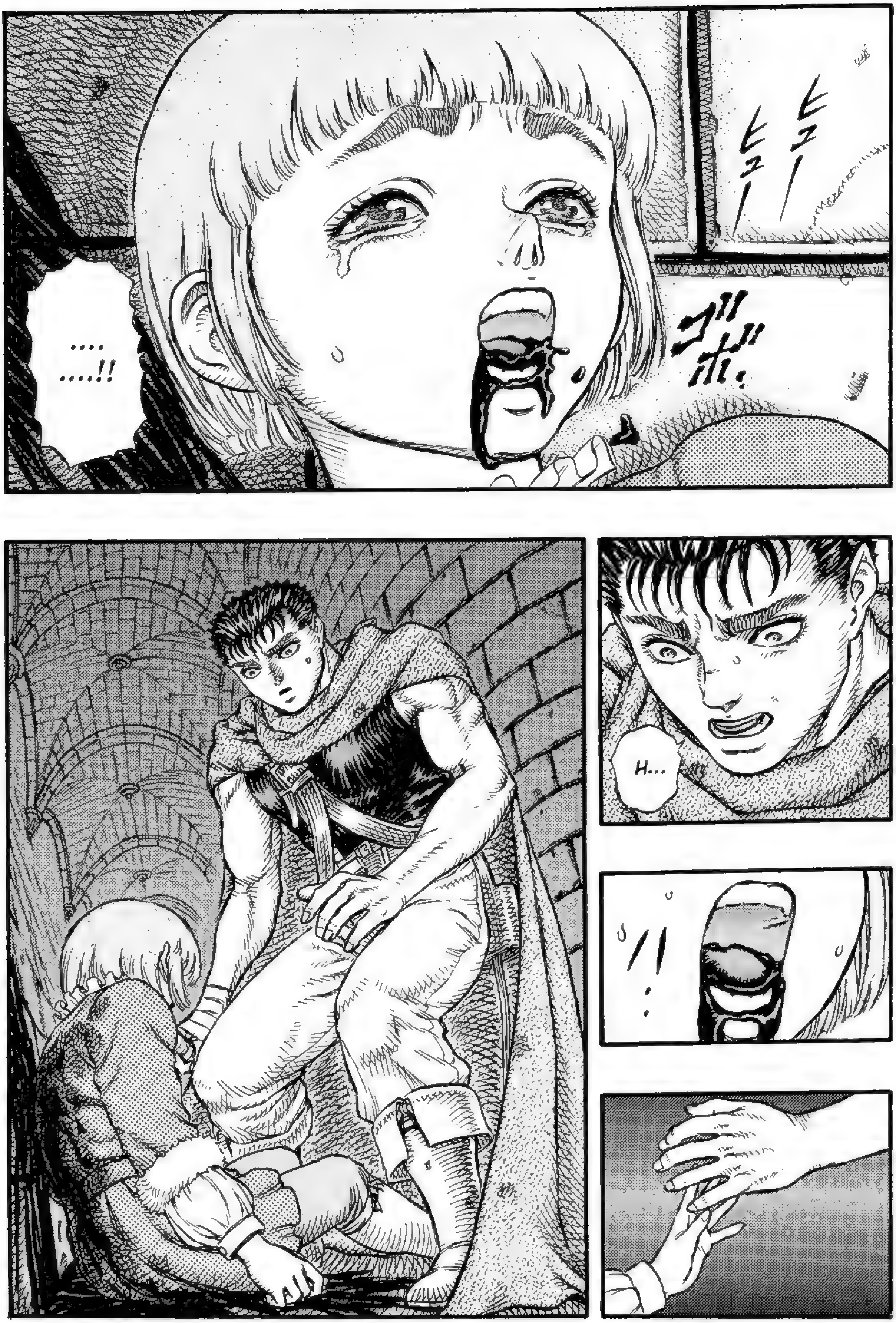
ベルセルク

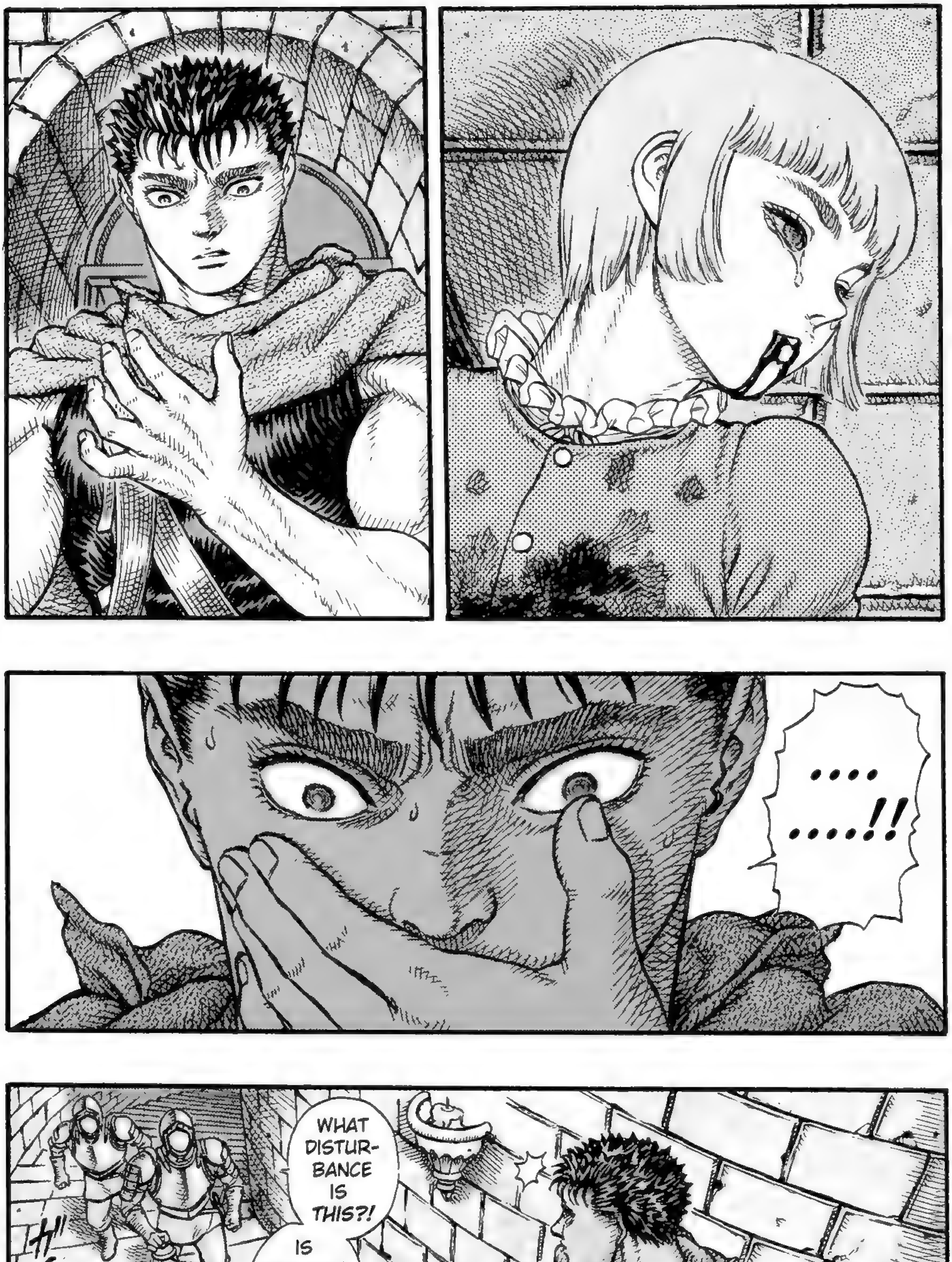
暗殺者（4）

ASSASSIN CHAPTER 4




ビクッ
AH...
⊰UGH⊱... AH...
......
......
グッ
H...
HEY...
ゴボ..

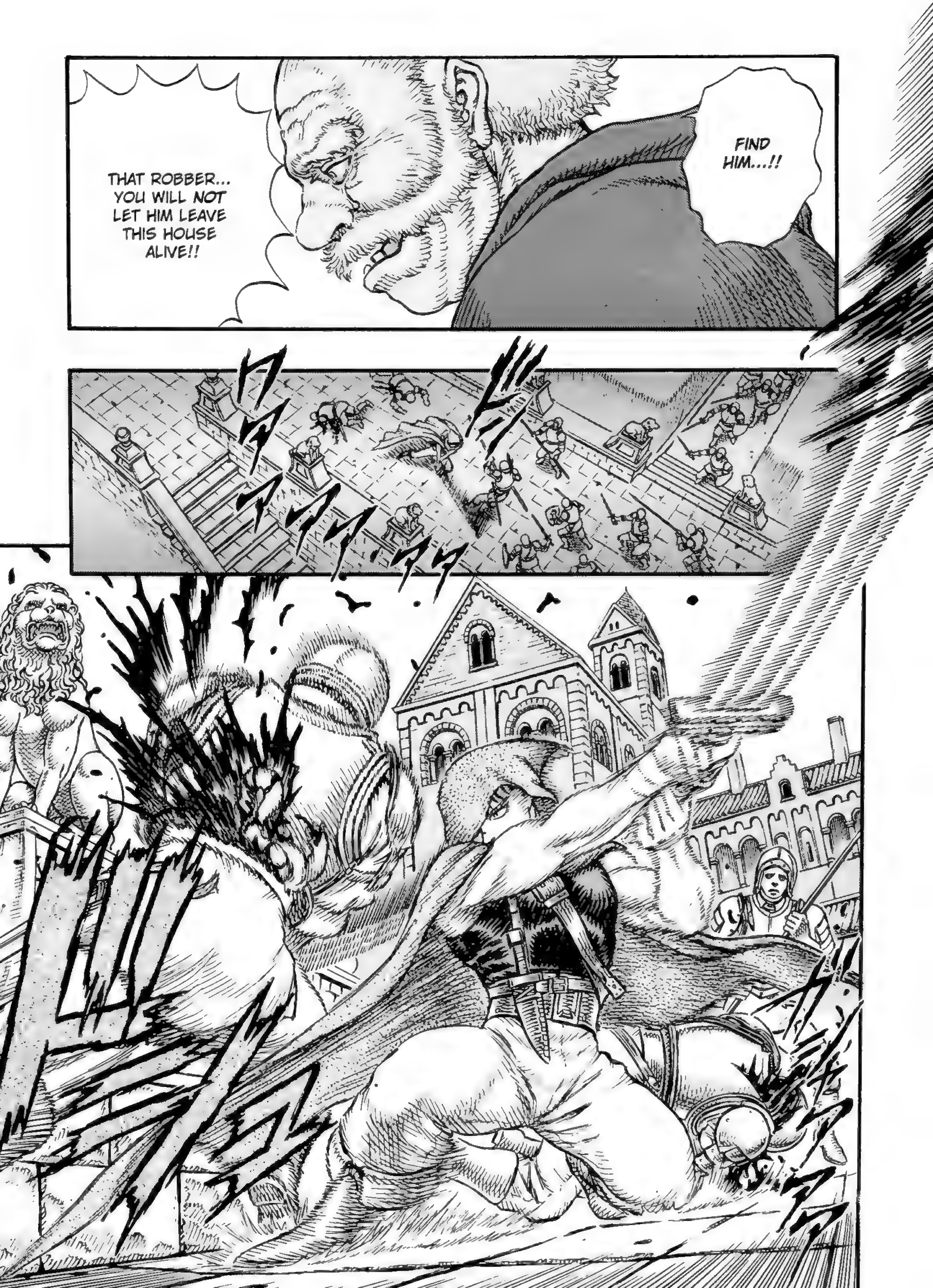

ヒュー
ヒュー
ゴボッ
….
….!!
H...
!!
..


....
....!!
WHAT DISTURBANCE IS THIS?!
IS ANYTHING THE MATTER, HIGHNESS?!
ガチャ
ガチャ

!
M... MASTER ADONIS?!
I... INTRUDER?!
ジャキ
ダン!

......
.....!!
ザワ
ザワ
ガチャ
ガチャ
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
WHAT'S THIS UPROAR ?!
A ROBBER!
A ROBBER BROKE INTO HIS HIGHNESS' CHAMBER!!
WHA--
SAY WHAT?!

....
...!!
IN THE END, NOT ONCE DID THIS BOY GET TO MAKE HIS FATHER SMILE...
...SUCH A YOUNG CHILD...
HOW MERCILESS...
MASTER HASSAN...


FIND HIM...!!
THAT ROBBER... YOU WILL NOT LET HIM LEAVE THIS HOUSE ALIVE!!

!
KH...!
!

A SEWER ...
ザアアア
FIND HIM!!
HE FELL OVER THERE!
バシャア
アア
......!!

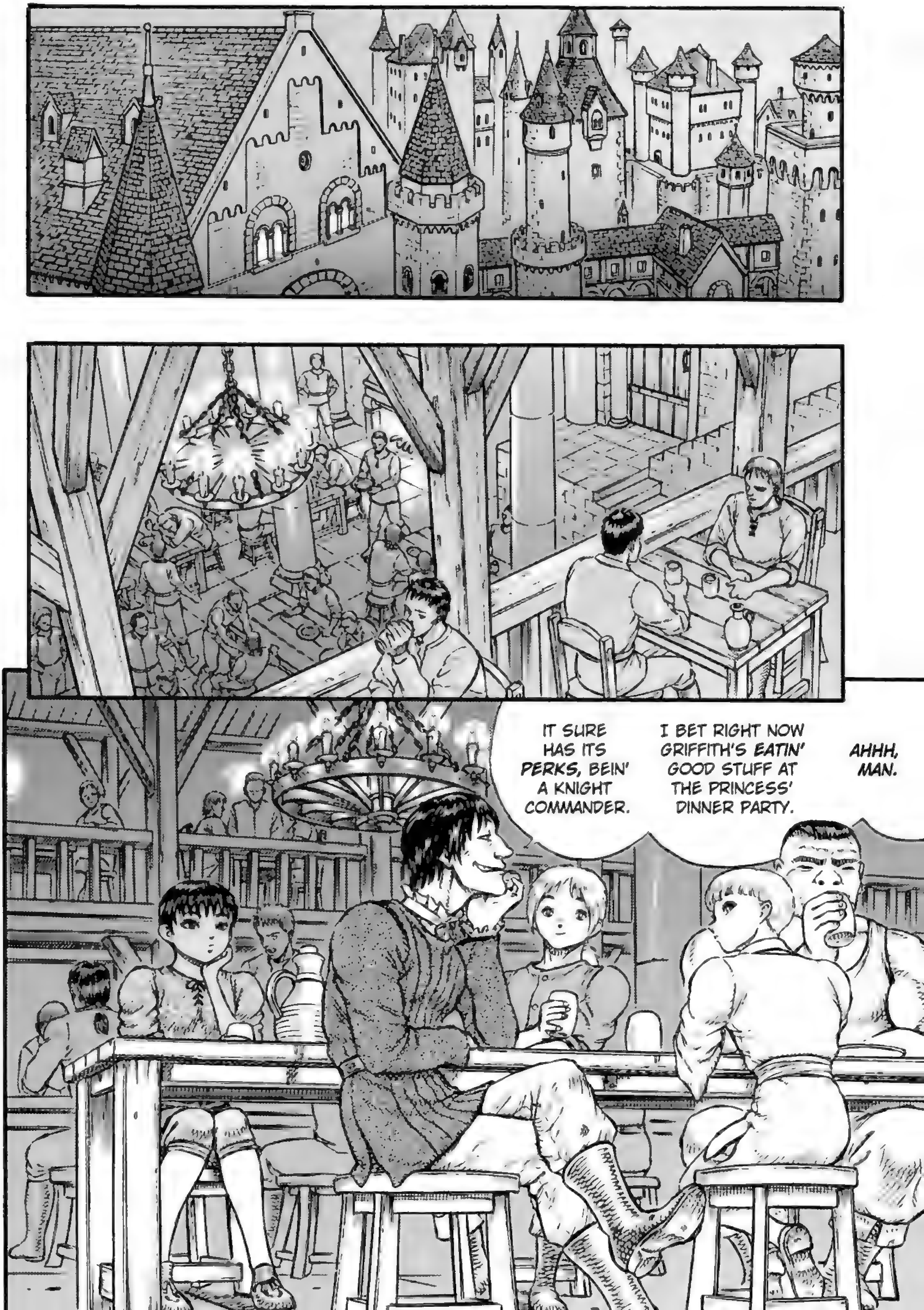
...THE SOUND OF SWORDS CLASHING...
THAT'S ...
...GAMBINO?
....
... RIGHT.
I WAS ALWAYS DES-PERATE.
ALWAYS TRYING TO GET YOU TO APPRECIATE ME...

......
....
STOP IT...
STOP!!

HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

ギアアアアアアアア

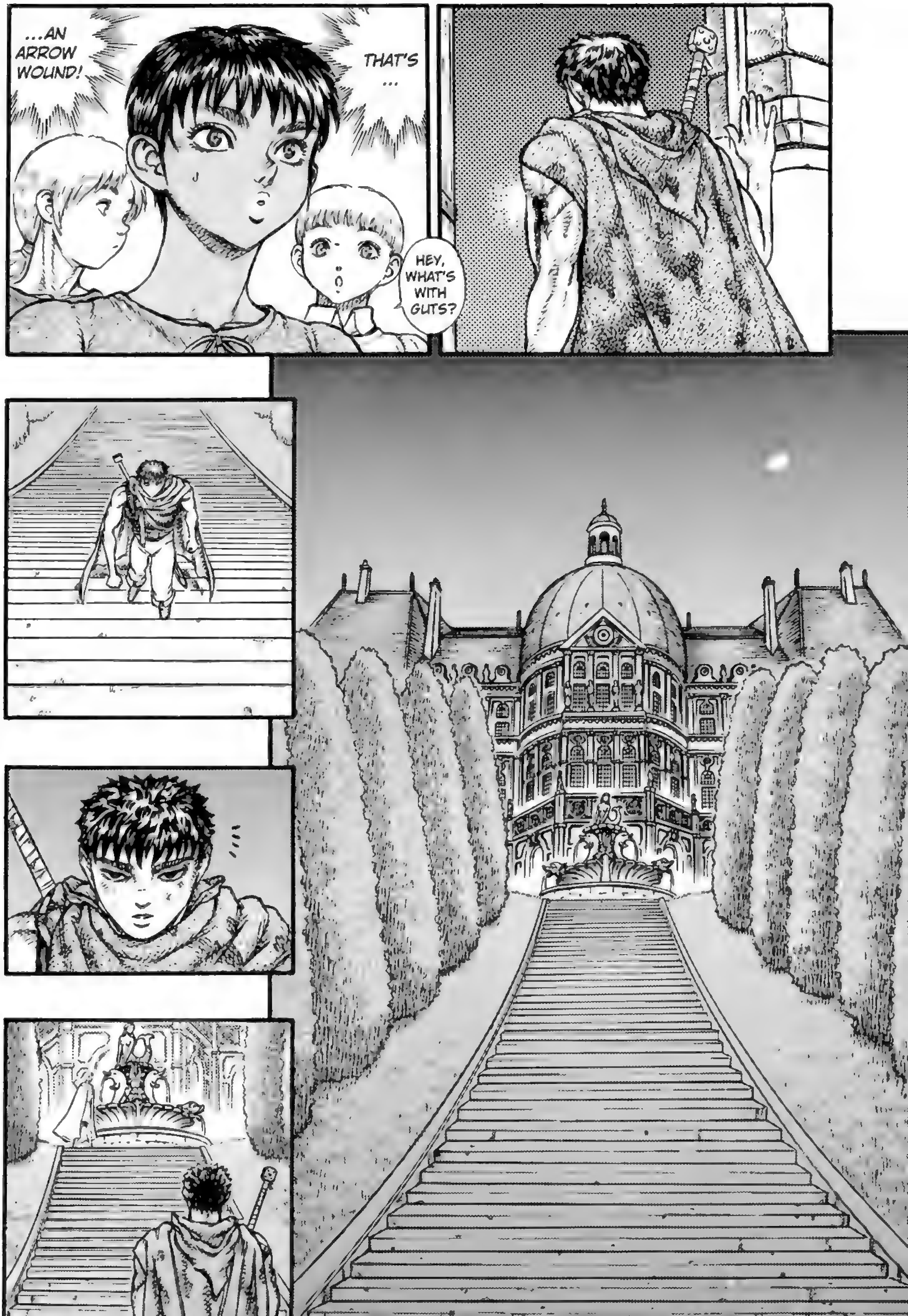
……
UGH
KOFF
GREHH
KOFF
……
……


AHHH, MAN.
I BET RIGHT NOW GRIFFITH'S *EATIN'* GOOD STUFF AT THE PRINCESS' DINNER PARTY.
IT SURE HAS ITS *PERKS,* BEIN' A KNIGHT COMMANDER.

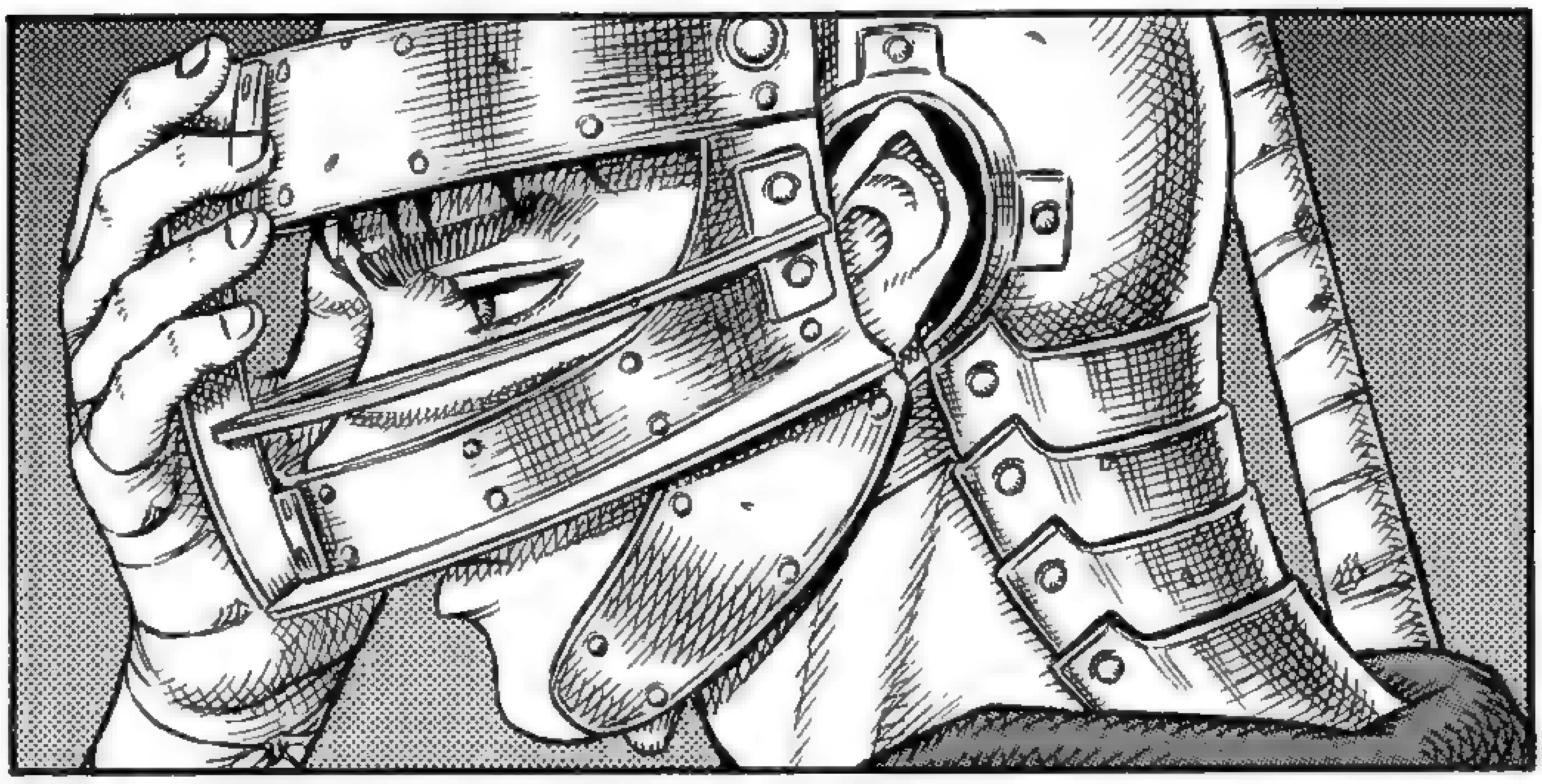
I'M SURE IT'S JUST STIFF UP THERE...
......
......
THAT REMINDS ME, WHERE'S GUTS...?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THIS MORNING.
FEH! HE'S PROBABLY JUST PRACTICIN' WITH HIS SWORD ALONE AGAIN. AS USUAL!
HE'S JUST GOOFING OFF!! HIS UNIT AND MINE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A JOINT PRACTICE TODAY!!
NOW, NOW.
AND WITHOUT ANY WARNING HE JUST--
HEY! GIMME THAT.
NOOO, I GOT IT FOR MYSELF....
!

ポタ
ポタ…
GUTS …
OH…
HN?
CUT IT OUT!

GUTS!! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?!
IT'S BEEN A ROUGH DAY THANKS TO YOU!!
AND WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE THAT?
DID YOU FALL IN THE MOAT OR SOME-THING?
GRIFFITH ...
EH...?
WHERE'S GRIFFITH...?
GRIFFITH...
...IS AT A DINNER PARTY HOSTED BY PRINCESS CHARLOTTE AT PROMROSE HALL...
ALL RIGHT ...
HEY! I WASN'T FINI--
!


THAT'S ...
...AN ARROW WOUND!
HEY, WHAT'S WITH GUTS?

ASSASSIN (4): THE END



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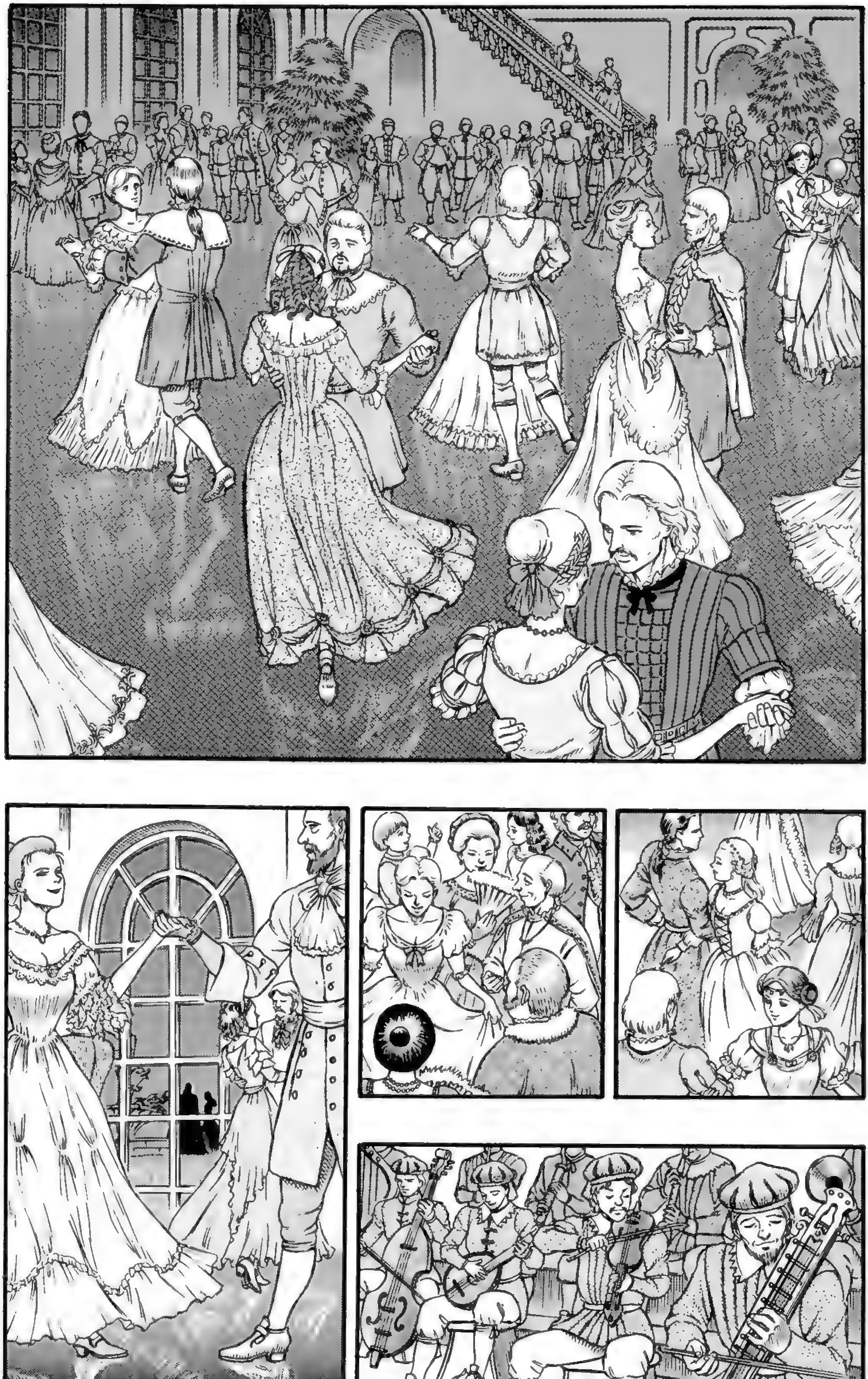
PRECIOUS THING



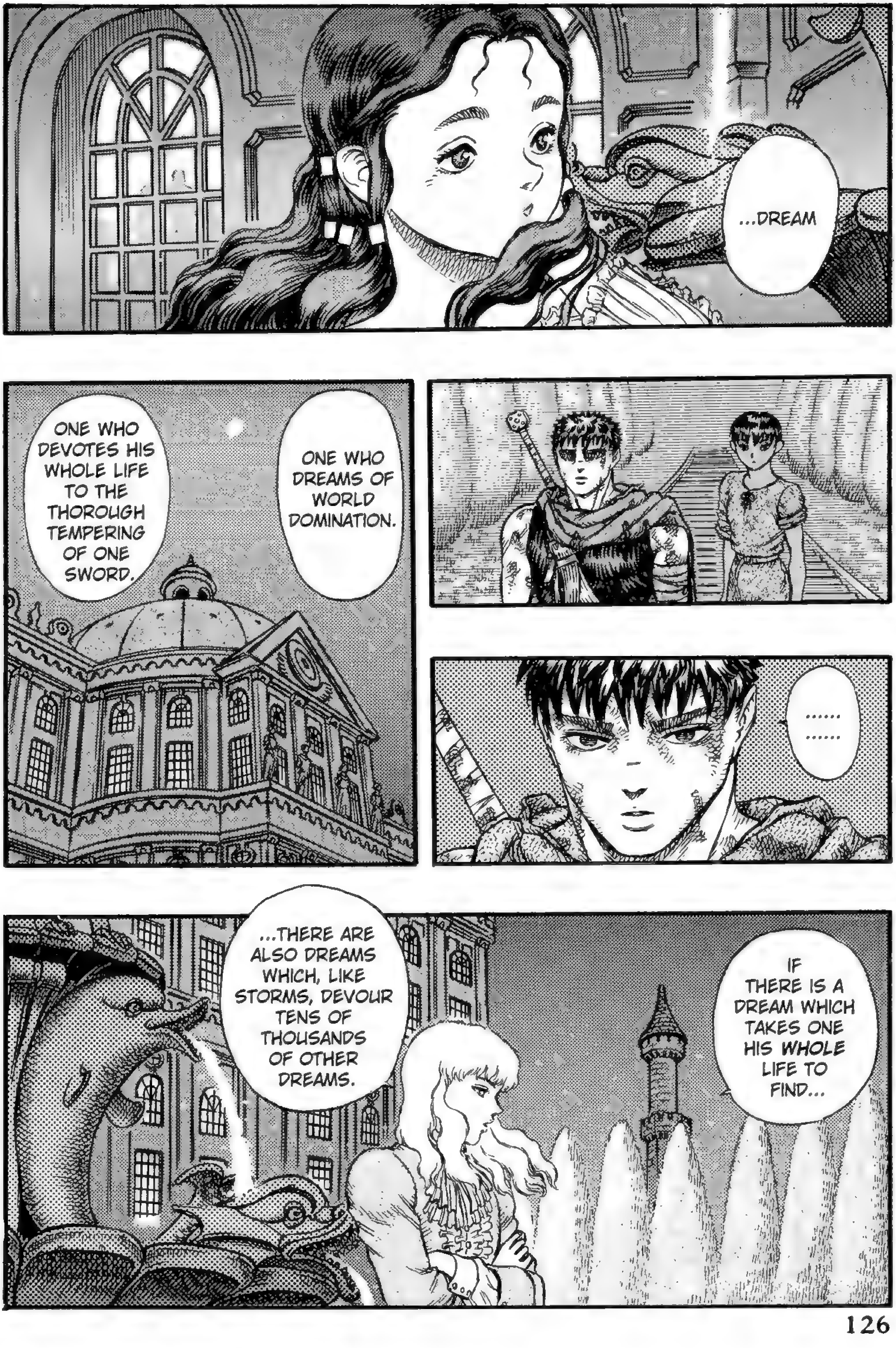
I FEEL A BIT TIRED...

PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.
… …
THANK YOU…
…… ……
WAIT.

YOU MEAN TO GO UP THERE LIKE THAT?
DON'T EMBARRASS GRIFFITH.
IF YOU'VE GOT BUSINESS, WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE DONE TALKING.
....
....
I NEED THIS.
ビィ~
H...
HEY...
キュ
......
......

IS THIS ALL RIGHT? THE HOST STEALING AWAY?
I DON'T MIND! THEY WILL ALL ENJOY THEMSELVES REGARDLESS.
BESIDES, IN REALITY...TONIGHT'S PARTY IS MY FATHER'S ARRANGEMENT TO DIVERT EVERYONE'S ATTENTION IN THE CASTLE EVEN BUT A TRIFLE FROM THE WEARINESS OF THE WAR.
I...
...FIND I DISLIKE THESE PARTIES.
THEY ARE JUST A BOTHER...
IF WE MUST HOLD A PARTY LIKE THIS...
...IT WOULD BE SO MUCH BETTER JUST TO END THE WAR ITSELF.
YOUR HIGHNESS ASKED THAT AT THE HUNTING GROUNDS.
?
YES...
"WHY IS IT THAT MEN ENJOY LITTLE MORE THAN SHEDDING BLOOD...?"
IT COULD CERTAINLY BE THAT MEN POSSESS THAT SAVAGE SIDE.

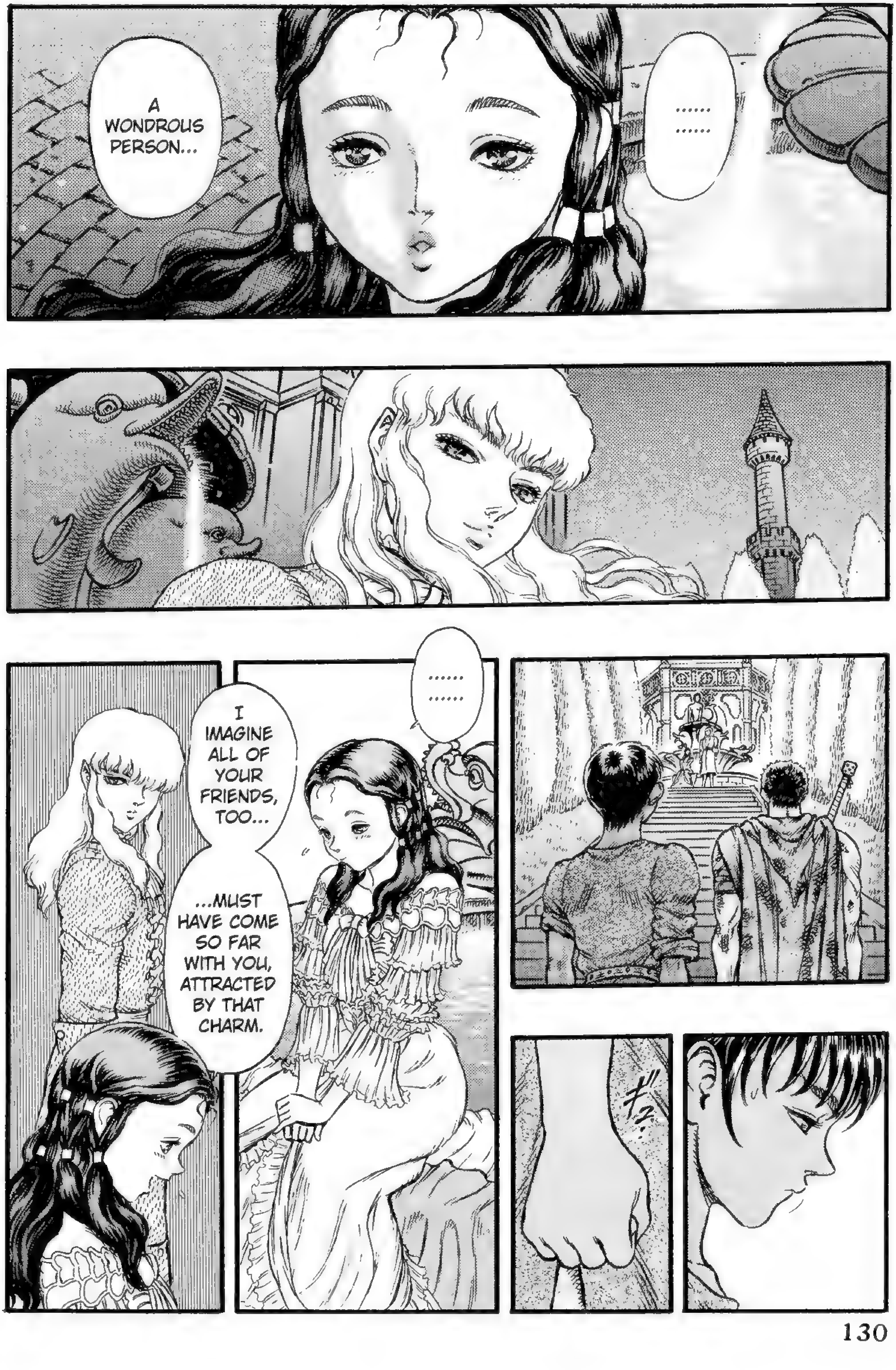
BUT THAT IS A TOOL BY WHICH THEY SECURE AND PROTECT A PRECIOUS THING...
I SUPPOSE IT IS A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD.
...PRECIOUS THING?
LIKE FAMILY... OR A SWEETHEART...?
THERE ARE SOME LIKE THAT.
BUT FOR A MAN...
BEFORE HE CAN OBTAIN THOSE TWO...
PERHAPS HE MUST COME UPON ONE OTHER PRECIOUS THING.
ONE OTHER...
PRECIOUS THING?
FOR NO OTHER'S SAKE.
TO ACCOMPLISH IT FOR HIM...FOR HIMSELF.
A DREAM.

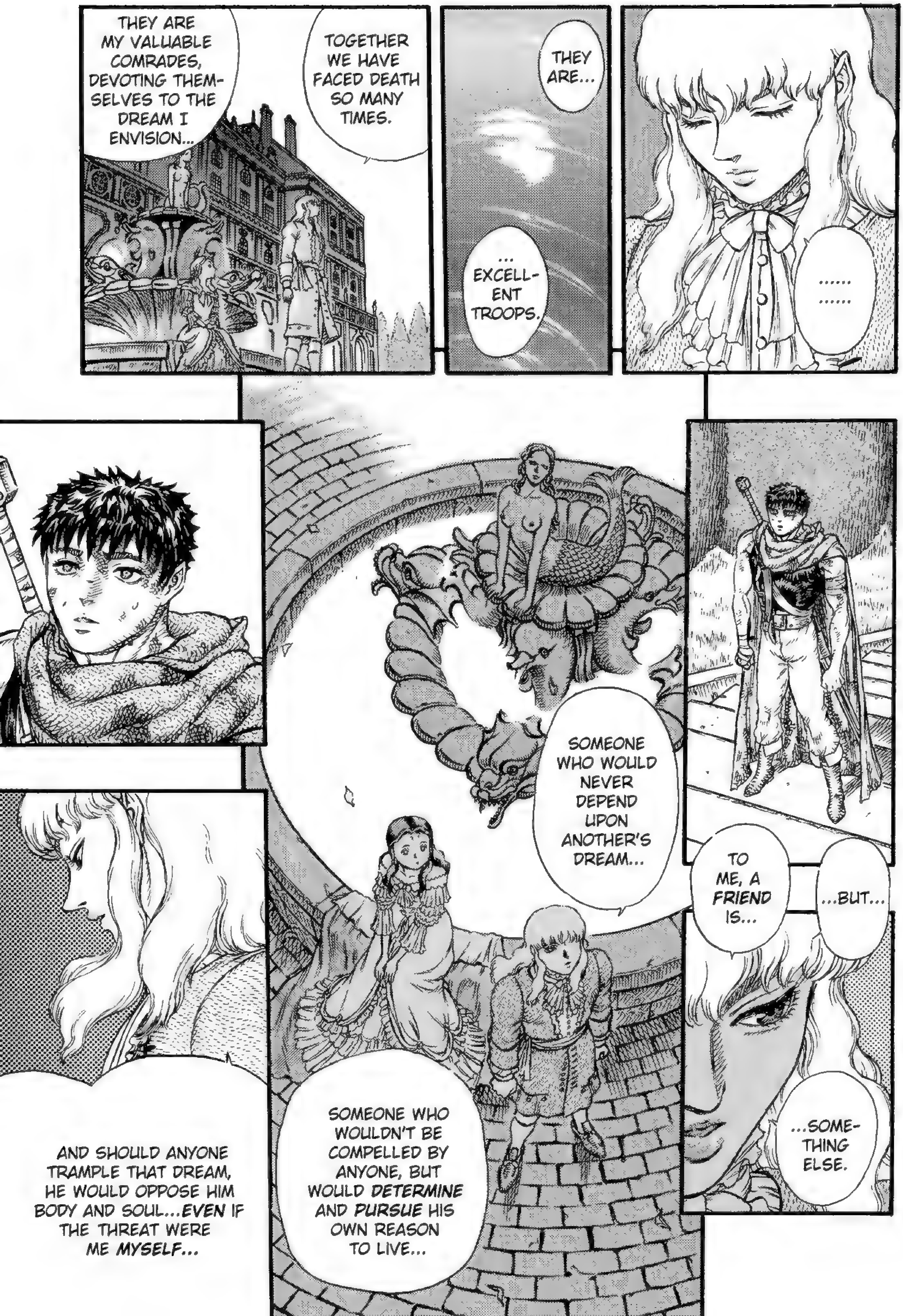

...DREAM
......
......
ONE WHO DREAMS OF WORLD DOMINATION.
ONE WHO DEVOTES HIS WHOLE LIFE TO THE THOROUGH TEMPERING OF ONE SWORD.
IF THERE IS A DREAM WHICH TAKES ONE HIS *WHOLE* LIFE TO FIND...
...THERE ARE ALSO DREAMS WHICH, LIKE STORMS, DEVOUR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER DREAMS.

WITH NO RELATION TO SOCIAL STATUS, CLASS... BACKGROUND.
WHETHER IT SUITS THEM OR NOT, PEOPLE *YEARN* FOR A DREAM.
SUSTAINED BY A DREAM, HURT BY A DREAM, REVIVED BY A DREAM, KILLED BY A DREAM.
AND EVEN AFTER BEING ABANDONED BY A DREAM, IT CONTINUES TO *SMOLDER* FROM THE BOTTOM OF ONE'S HEART... PROBABLY UNTIL THE VERGE OF DEATH...
A MAN SHOULD ENVISION SUCH A LIFETIME ONCE.
A LIFE SPENT AS A *MARTYR*...
...TO THE GOD NAMED *"DREAM"*...
....
....

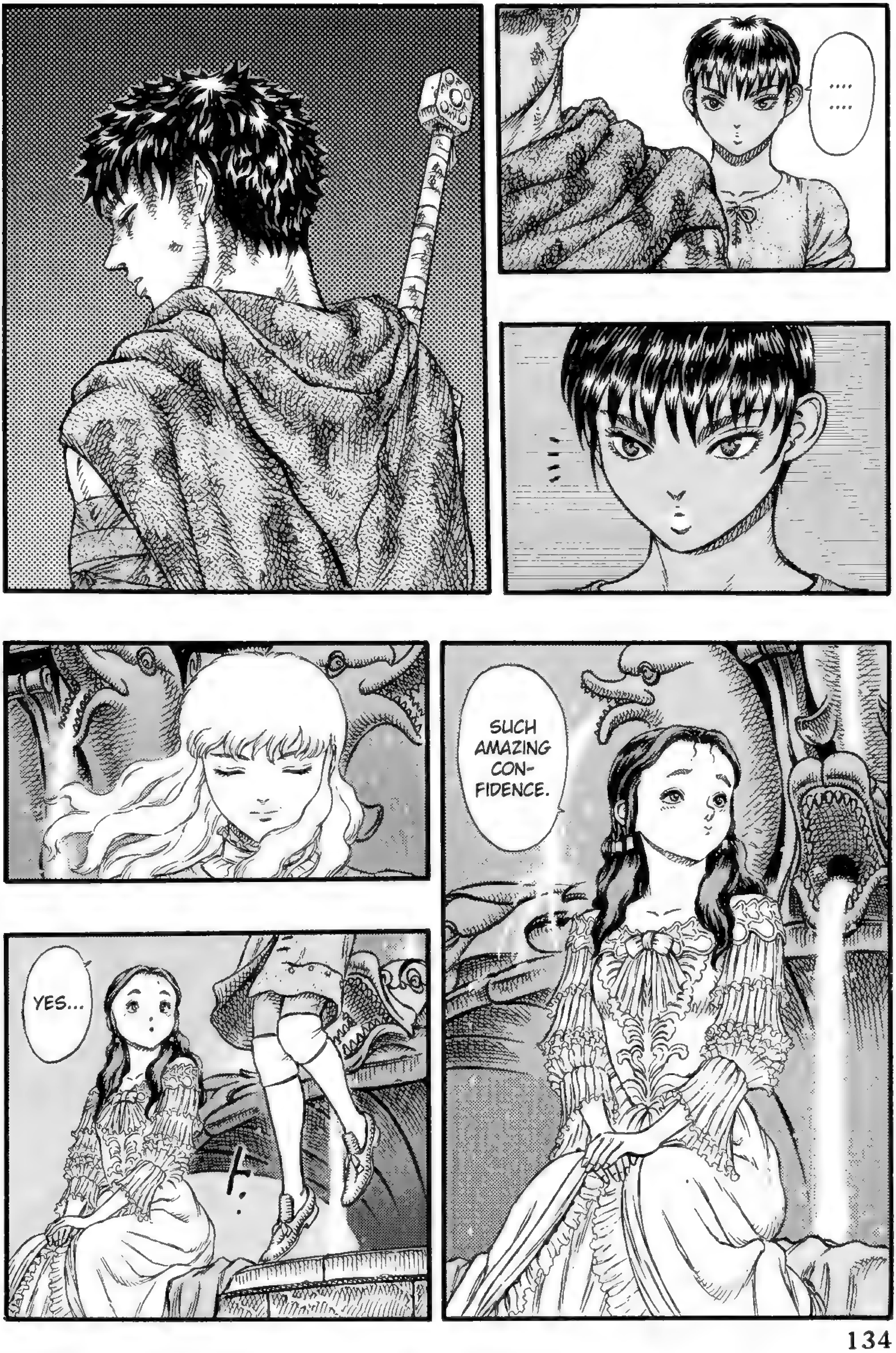
...ULTIMATELY TO BE BORN,
AND TO THEN SIMPLY LIVE FOR NO BETTER REASON...
I *CAN'T* ABIDE SUCH A *LIFESTYLE.*
......
......
FORGIVE ME, I'VE CHATTERED ON SO.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A BORING TOPIC FOR A LADY.
N... *NO!!*

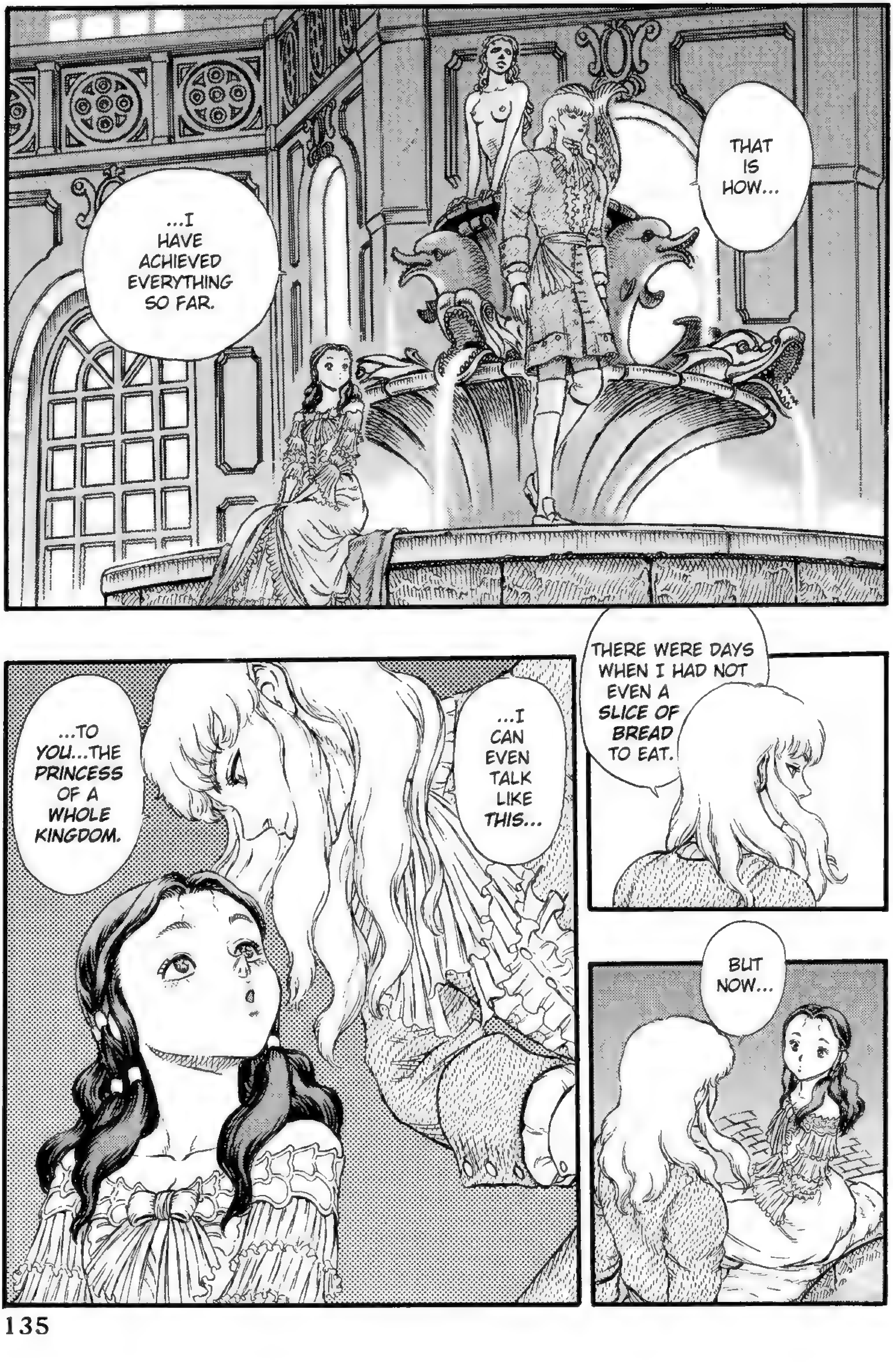
THIS...
...THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE EVER TALKED WITH A MAN THIS WAY.
LORD GRIFFITH ...
...YOU ARE A WONDROUS PERSON.
THE FIRST TIME I EVER LAID EYES ON YOU, I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE SON OF SOME ARISTOCRAT. YOU SEEMED SO MAGNIFICENT FOR SOMEONE SO YOUNG.
WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WERE COMMON-BORN, IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE. SOMEHOW...IT IS AS IF...YOU ARE NOBLER THAN ANY OF THE NOBLES IN THIS CASTLE.
BUT, AT THE HUNT WHEN YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO SOUND THE REED WHISTLE, YOU SEEMED VERY...SIMPLE AND CAREFREE ...
YOU WERE JUST LIKE SOME VILLAGE CHILD USED TO PLAYING IN FORESTS AND RIVERS ...
AND RIGHT NOW ...
...YOU SAY THE KINDS OF THINGS TO ME A PHILOSOPHER WOULD SAY.

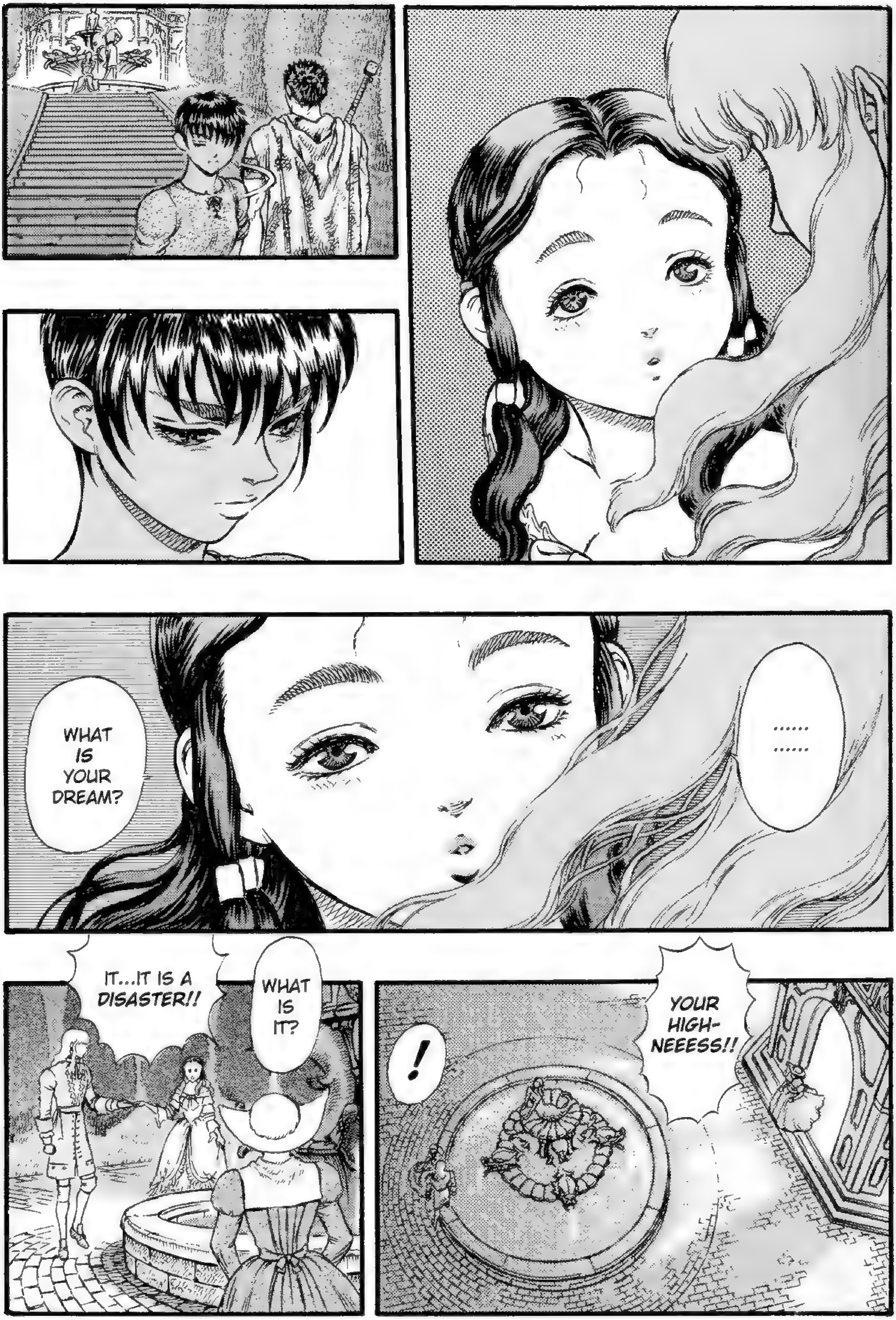

……
……
A WONDROUS PERSON…
……
……
I IMAGINE ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS, TOO…
…MUST HAVE COME SO FAR WITH YOU, ATTRACTED BY THAT CHARM.
ギュ

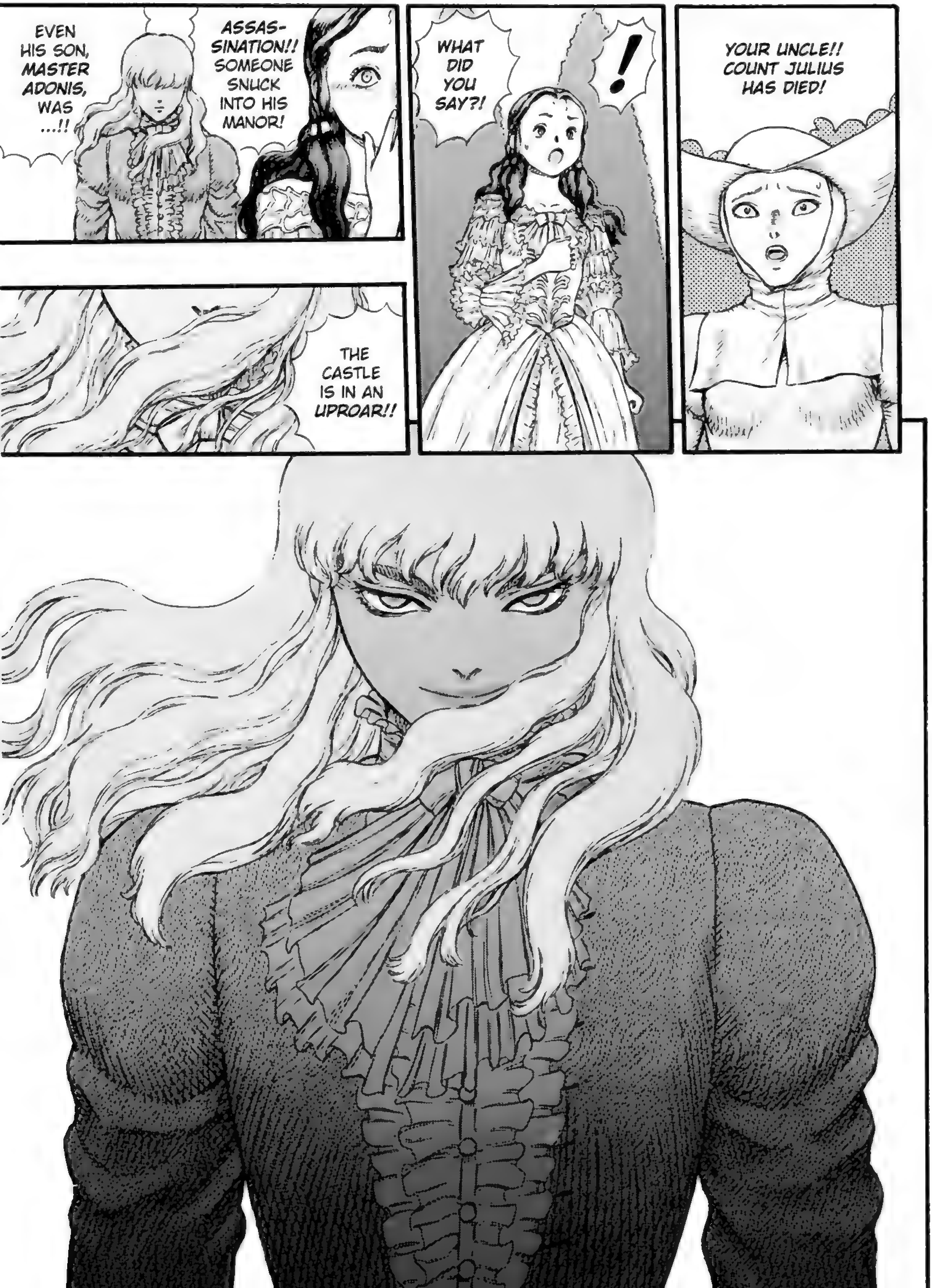

THEY ARE MY VALUABLE COMRADES, DEVOTING THEMSELVES TO THE DREAM I ENVISION...
TOGETHER WE HAVE FACED DEATH SO MANY TIMES.
THEY ARE...
...EXCELLENT TROOPS.
....
SOMEONE WHO WOULD NEVER DEPEND UPON ANOTHER'S DREAM...
SOMEONE WHO WOULDN'T BE COMPELLED BY ANYONE, BUT WOULD *DETERMINE* AND *PURSUE* HIS OWN REASON TO LIVE...
AND SHOULD ANYONE TRAMPLE THAT DREAM, HE WOULD OPPOSE HIM BODY AND SOUL...*EVEN* IF THE THREAT WERE ME *MYSELF*...
...BUT...
TO ME, A *FRIEND* IS...
...SOMETHING ELSE.

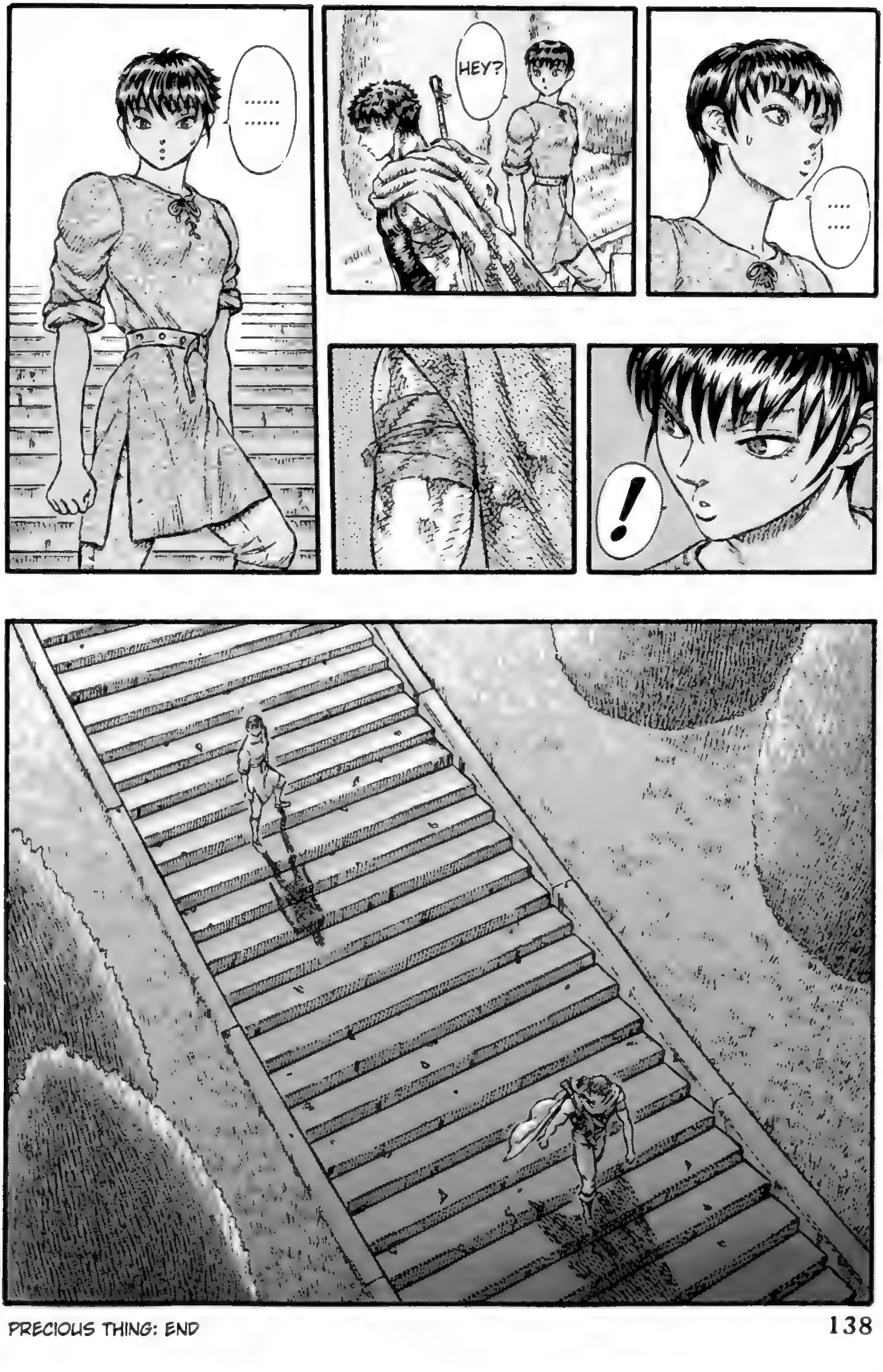
WHAT I THINK A FRIEND IS...
...IS ONE...
...WHO IS MY **"EQUAL."**


....
....
SUCH AMAZING CONFIDENCE.
YES...


THAT IS HOW...
...I HAVE ACHIEVED EVERYTHING SO FAR.
THERE WERE DAYS WHEN I HAD NOT EVEN A SLICE OF BREAD TO EAT.
BUT NOW...
...I CAN EVEN TALK LIKE THIS...
...TO YOU...THE PRINCESS OF A WHOLE KINGDOM.


WHAT IS YOUR DREAM?
......
......
IT...IT IS A DISASTER!!
WHAT IS IT?
!
YOUR HIGH-NEEESS!!


YOUR UNCLE!! COUNT JULIUS HAS DIED!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
!
ASSASSINATION!! SOMEONE SNUCK INTO HIS MANOR!
EVEN HIS SON, MASTER ADONIS, WAS ...!!
THE CASTLE IS IN AN UPROAR!!



PRECIOUS THING: END

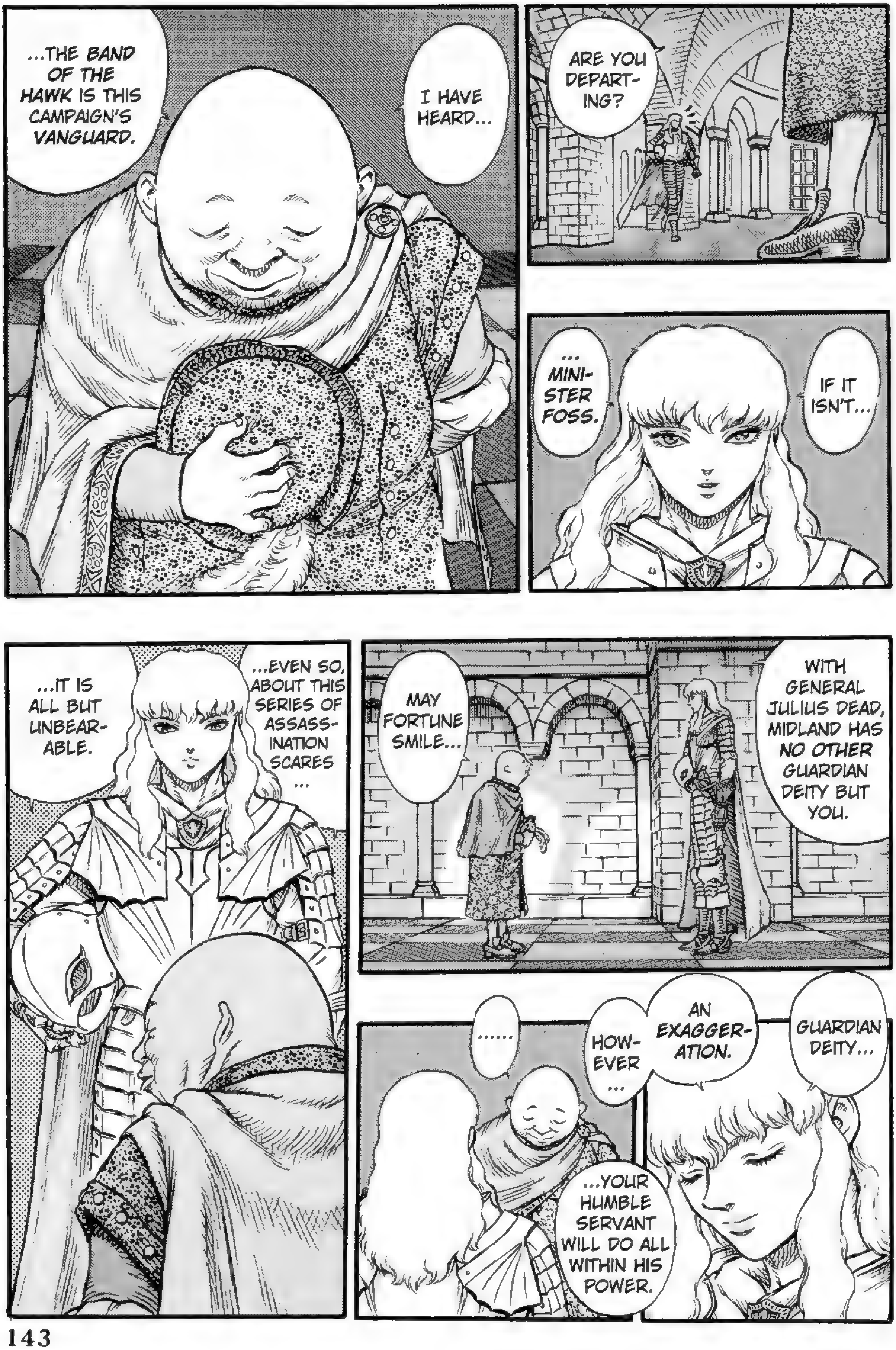
THE *MIDLAND* ROYAL FAMILY CREST. A CASTLE BEARING A CROWN, SEATED IN THE MIDST OF THE HEAVENS.
THE LEGENDARY *"TOWER OF TRIUMPH."*
ベルセルク

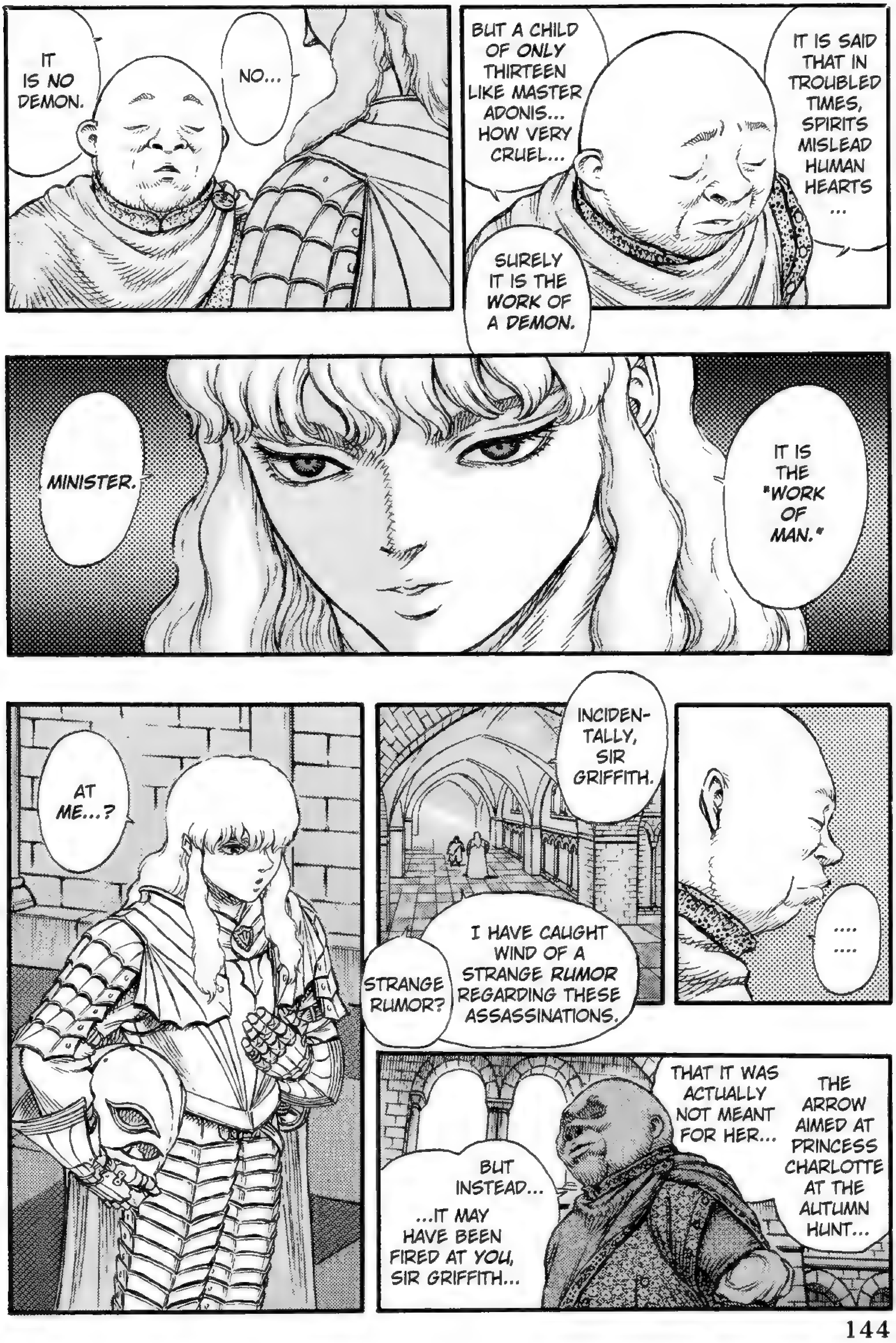
ベルセルク

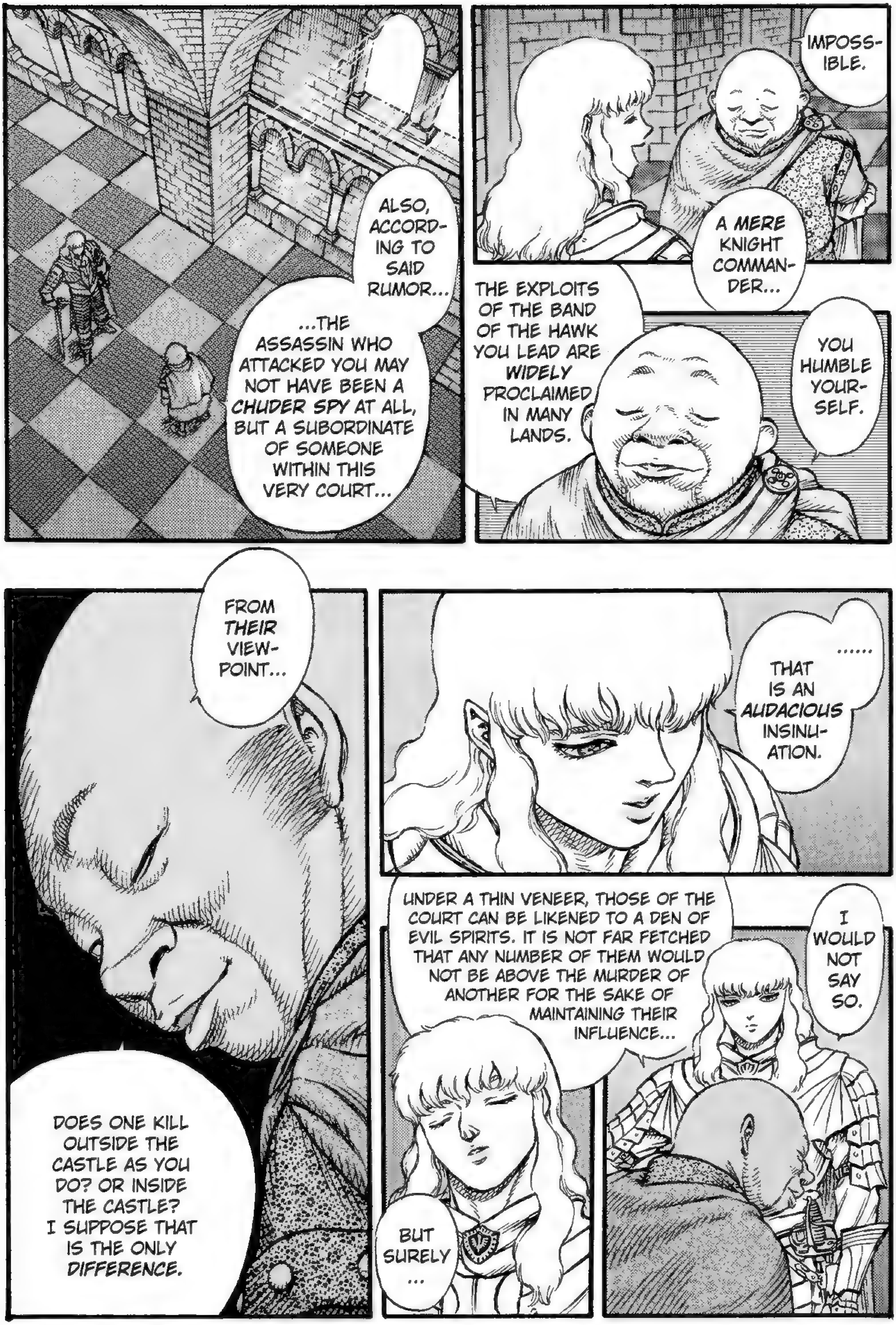
出陣

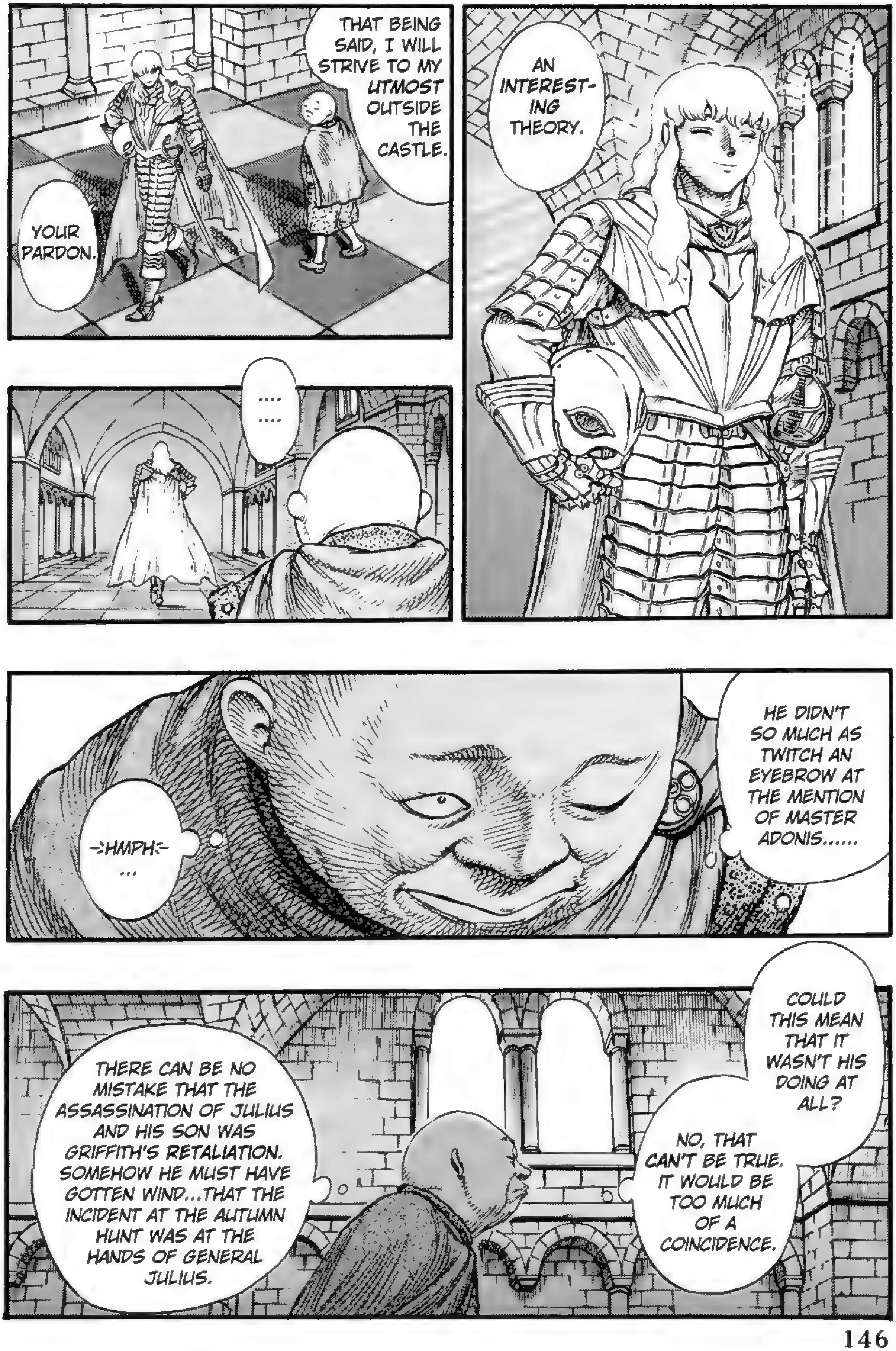
DEPARTURE FOR THE FRONT

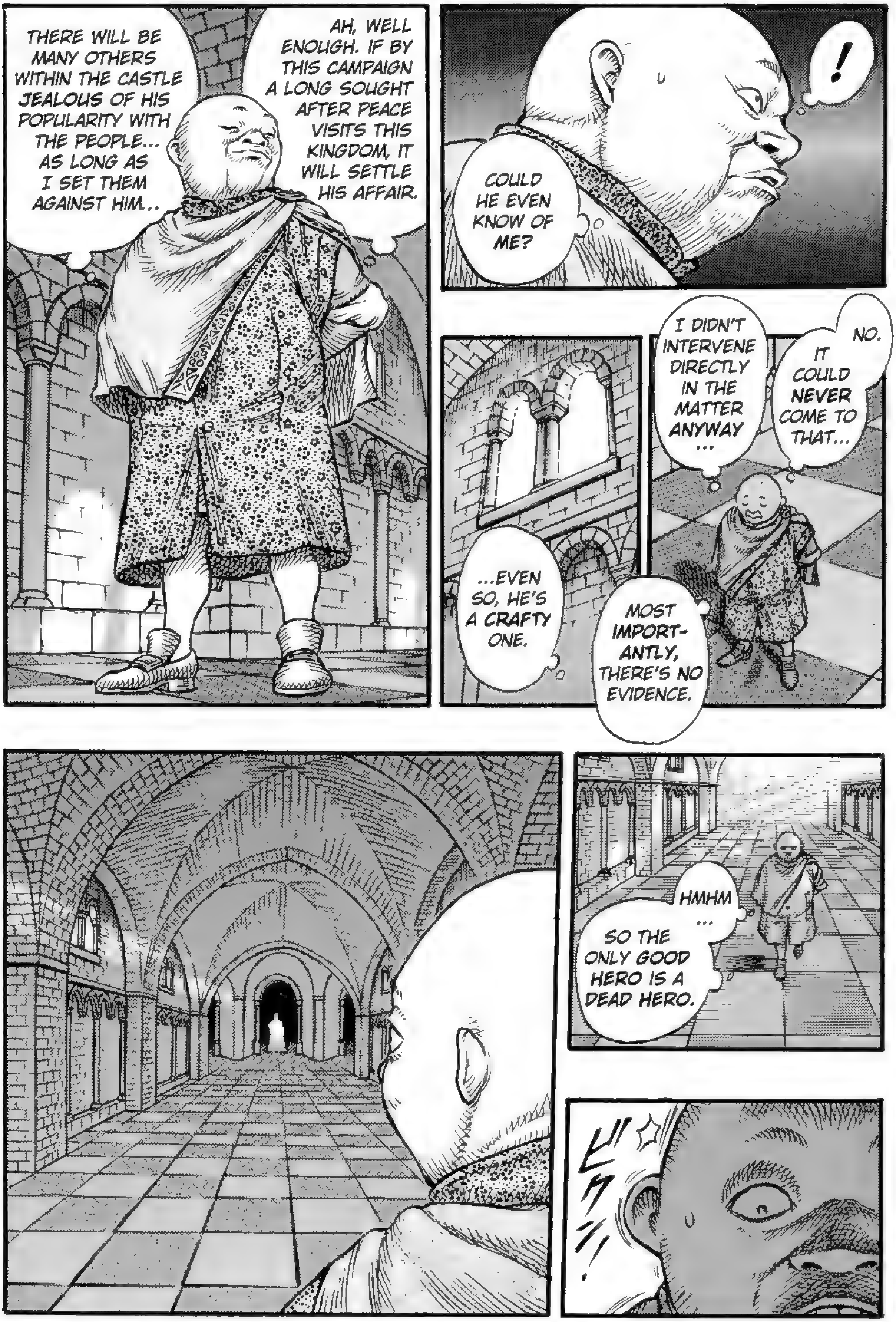
SO MANY OF THEM...
THEY SAY THIS NEW CAMPAIGN COULD MEAN AN END TO THE WAR.
NOW IF ONLY THAT COMES TRUE ...
DON'T WORRY! MIDLAND HAS ITS OWN GUARDIAN ANGEL, YOU KNOW!
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...


ARE YOU DEPARTING?
IF IT ISN'T...
...MINISTER FOSS.
I HAVE HEARD...
...THE BAND OF THE HAWK IS THIS CAMPAIGN'S VANGUARD.
WITH GENERAL JULIUS DEAD, MIDLAND HAS NO OTHER GUARDIAN DEITY BUT YOU.
MAY FORTUNE SMILE...
GUARDIAN DEITY...
AN EXAGGERATION.
HOWEVER...
......
...YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT WILL DO ALL WITHIN HIS POWER.
...EVEN SO, ABOUT THIS SERIES OF ASSASSINATION SCARES...
...IT IS ALL BUT UNBEARABLE.

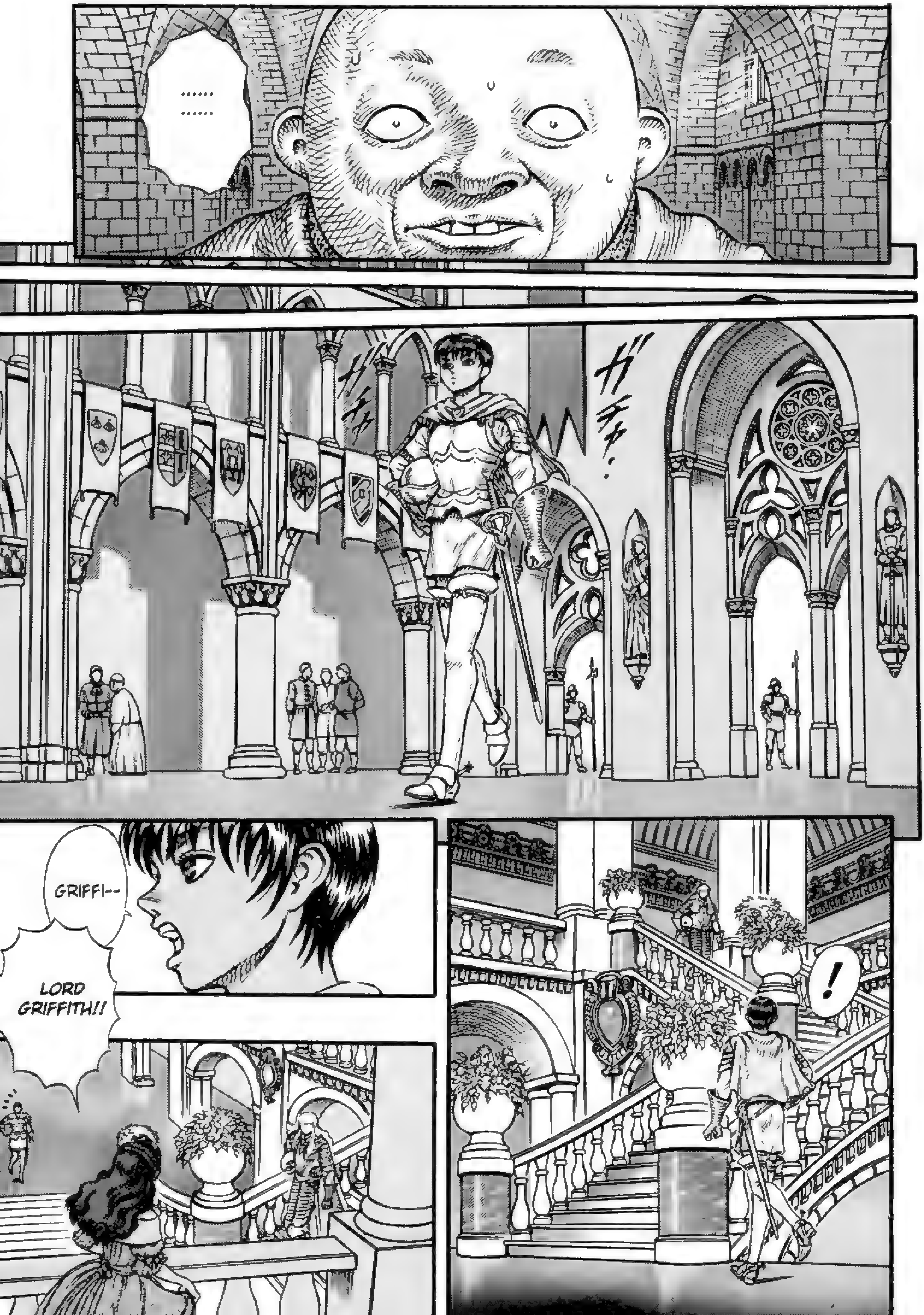

IT IS SAID THAT IN TROUBLED TIMES, SPIRITS MISLEAD HUMAN HEARTS...
BUT A CHILD OF *ONLY* THIRTEEN LIKE MASTER ADONIS... HOW VERY CRUEL...
SURELY IT IS THE *WORK OF A DEMON.*
NO...
IT IS *NO* DEMON.
IT IS THE *"WORK OF MAN."*
MINISTER.
....
....
INCIDENTALLY, SIR GRIFFITH.
I HAVE CAUGHT WIND OF A STRANGE *RUMOR* REGARDING THESE ASSASSINATIONS.
STRANGE RUMOR?
THE ARROW AIMED AT PRINCESS CHARLOTTE AT THE AUTUMN HUNT...
THAT IT WAS ACTUALLY NOT MEANT FOR HER...
BUT INSTEAD...
...IT MAY HAVE BEEN FIRED AT *YOU*, SIR GRIFFITH...
AT *ME*...?


IMPOSSIBLE.
A *MERE* KNIGHT COMMANDER...
YOU HUMBLE YOURSELF.
THE EXPLOITS OF THE BAND OF THE HAWK YOU LEAD ARE *WIDELY* PROCLAIMED IN MANY LANDS.
ALSO, ACCORDING TO SAID RUMOR...
...THE ASSASSIN WHO ATTACKED YOU MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A *CHUDER SPY* AT ALL, BUT A SUBORDINATE OF SOMEONE WITHIN THIS VERY COURT...
......
THAT IS AN *AUDACIOUS* INSINUATION.
FROM *THEIR* VIEWPOINT...
I WOULD NOT SAY SO.
UNDER A THIN VENEER, THOSE OF THE COURT CAN BE LIKENED TO A DEN OF EVIL SPIRITS. IT IS NOT FAR FETCHED THAT ANY NUMBER OF THEM WOULD NOT BE ABOVE THE MURDER OF ANOTHER FOR THE SAKE OF MAINTAINING THEIR INFLUENCE...
BUT SURELY...
DOES ONE KILL OUTSIDE THE CASTLE AS YOU DO? OR INSIDE THE CASTLE? I SUPPOSE THAT IS THE ONLY *DIFFERENCE.*

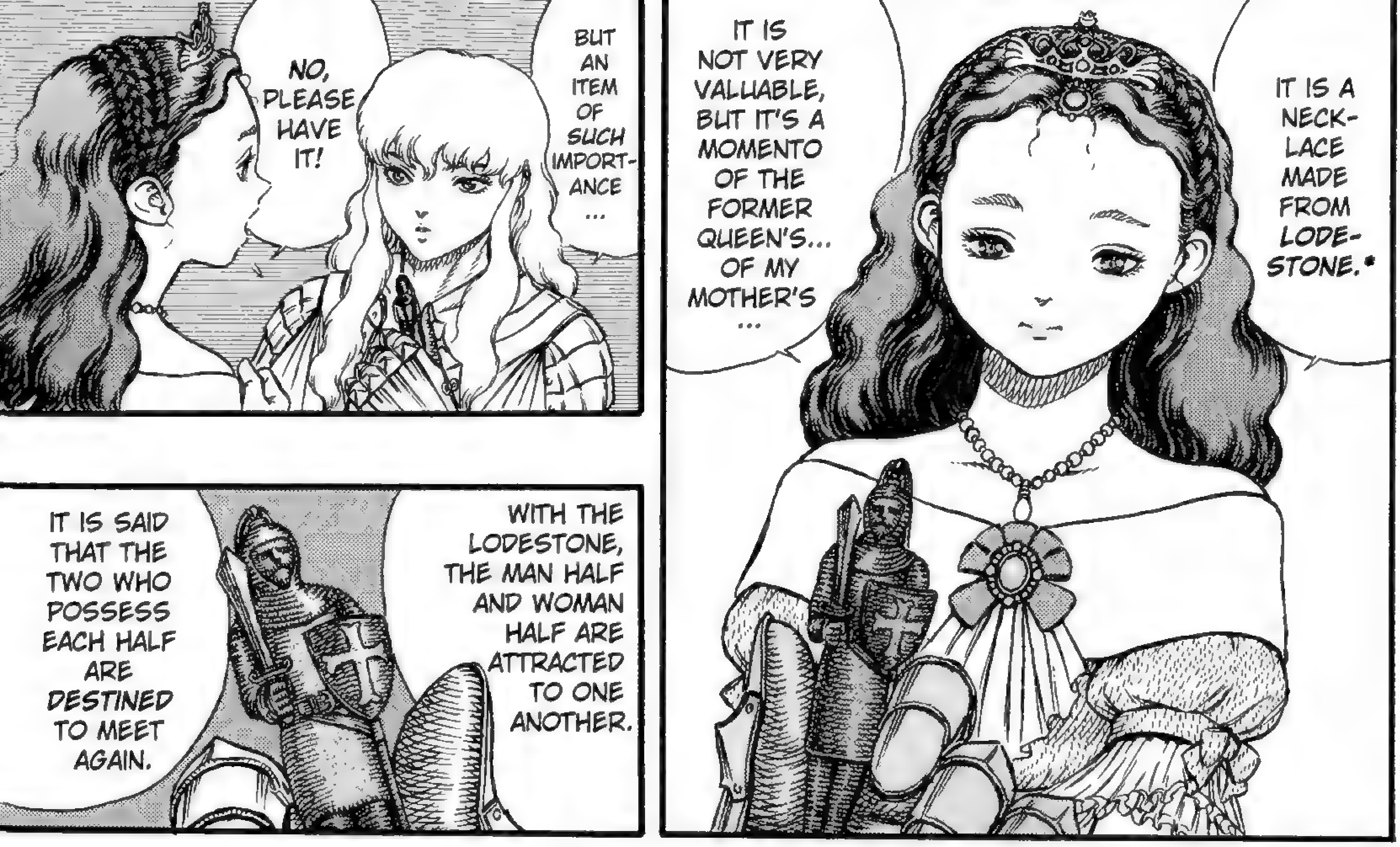

AN INTERESTING THEORY.
THAT BEING SAID, I WILL STRIVE TO MY *UTMOST* OUTSIDE THE CASTLE.
YOUR PARDON.
....
HE DIDN'T SO MUCH AS TWITCH AN EYEBROW AT THE MENTION OF MASTER ADONIS......
-HMPH- ...
COULD THIS MEAN THAT IT WASN'T HIS DOING AT ALL?
NO, THAT CAN'T BE TRUE. IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE.
THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE THAT THE ASSASSINATION OF JULIUS AND HIS SON WAS GRIFFITH'S RETALIATION. SOMEHOW HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN WIND...THAT THE INCIDENT AT THE AUTUMN HUNT WAS AT THE HANDS OF GENERAL JULIUS.


AH, WELL ENOUGH. IF BY THIS CAMPAIGN A LONG SOUGHT AFTER PEACE VISITS THIS KINGDOM, IT WILL SETTLE HIS AFFAIR.
THERE WILL BE MANY OTHERS WITHIN THE CASTLE JEALOUS OF HIS POPULARITY WITH THE PEOPLE... AS LONG AS I SET THEM AGAINST HIM...
!
COULD HE EVEN KNOW OF ME?
...EVEN SO, HE'S A CRAFTY ONE.
I DIDN'T INTERVENE DIRECTLY IN THE MATTER ANYWAY...
NO. IT COULD NEVER COME TO THAT...
MOST IMPORTANTLY, THERE'S NO EVIDENCE.
HMHM...
SO THE ONLY GOOD HERO IS A DEAD HERO.
ビクッ

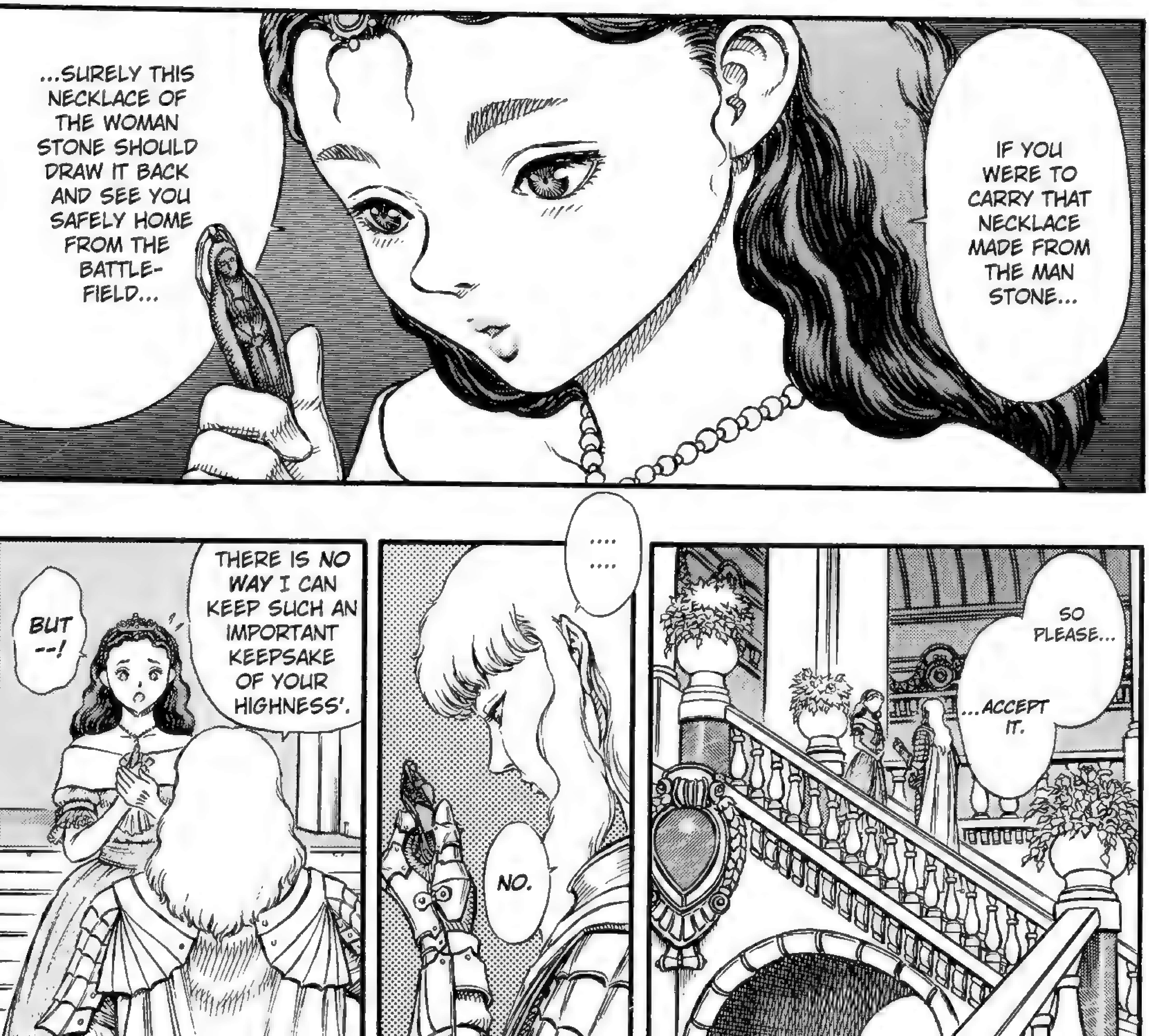
……
……
…N…
....
....


......
......
ガチャ!!
ガチャ
!
GRIFFI--
LORD GRIFFITH!!

PRINCESS CHARLOTTE.
……
……
ARE YOU …
…ARE YOU DEPARTING *ALREADY?*
YES, I AM ON MY WAY.
……
……
WHAT IS IT?
UM.
TAKE THIS…
チャラ

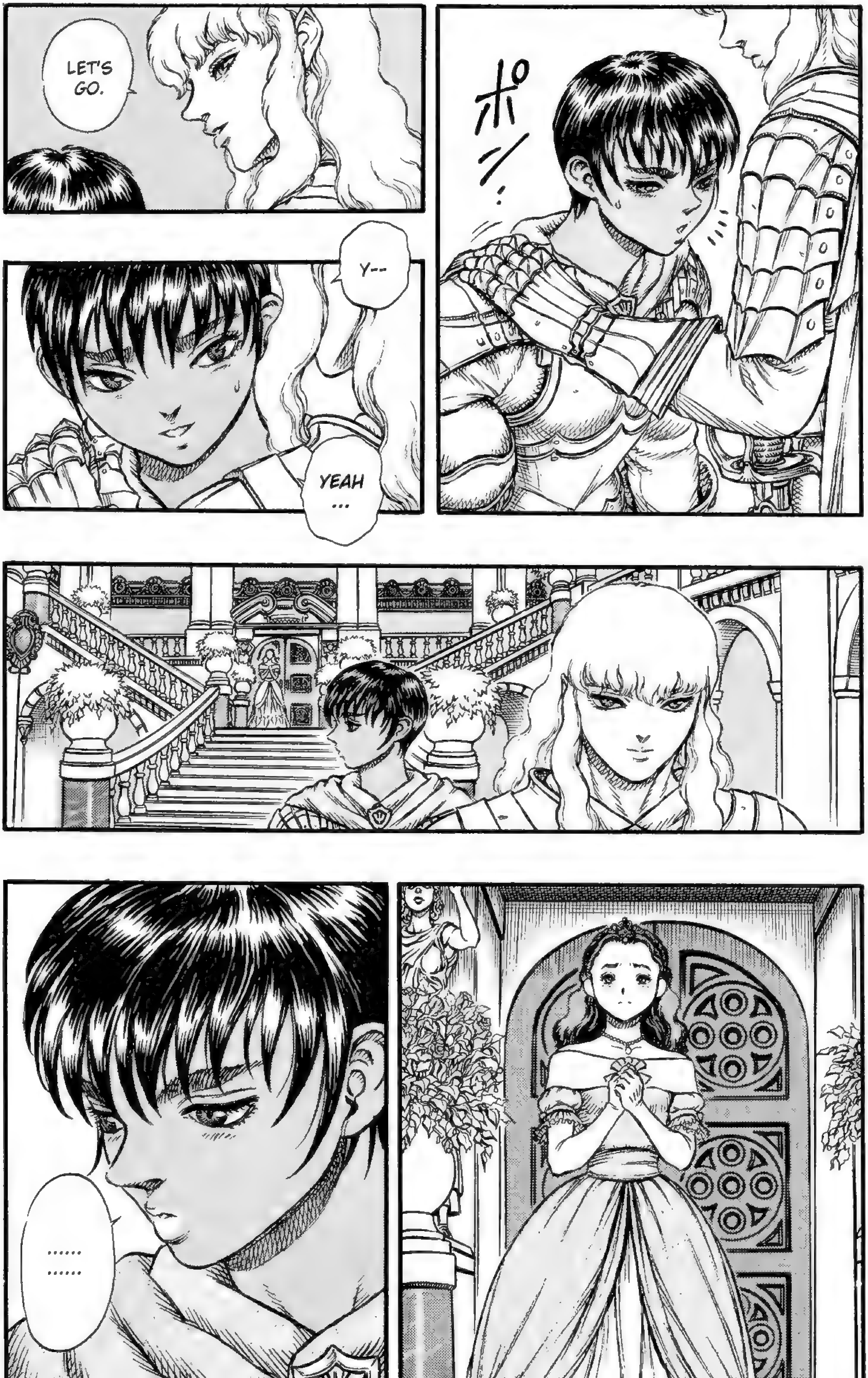

IT IS A NECKLACE MADE FROM LODESTONE.*
IT IS NOT VERY VALUABLE, BUT IT'S A MOMENTO OF THE FORMER QUEEN'S... OF MY MOTHER'S...
BUT AN ITEM OF SUCH IMPORTANCE...
NO, PLEASE HAVE IT!
WITH THE LODESTONE, THE MAN HALF AND WOMAN HALF ARE ATTRACTED TO ONE ANOTHER.
IT IS SAID THAT THE TWO WHO POSSESS EACH HALF ARE *DESTINED* TO MEET AGAIN.

**A NATURALLY OCCURRING MAGNET.*


IF YOU WERE TO CARRY THAT NECKLACE MADE FROM THE MAN STONE...
...SURELY THIS NECKLACE OF THE WOMAN STONE SHOULD DRAW IT BACK AND SEE YOU SAFELY HOME FROM THE BATTLEFIELD...
SO PLEASE...
...ACCEPT IT.
....
NO.
THERE IS NO WAY I CAN KEEP SUCH AN IMPORTANT KEEPSAKE OF YOUR HIGHNESS'.
BUT --!

THEREFORE ONCE I RETURN FROM THIS CAMPAIGN...
...I SWEAR I WILL GIVE THIS BACK TO YOU.
... ...
I...
I HAVE NEVER DREADED BATTLE...AS MUCH I DO THIS TIME.
LORD GRIFFITH ...
PLEASE ...
...PLEASE.
BE SAFE...

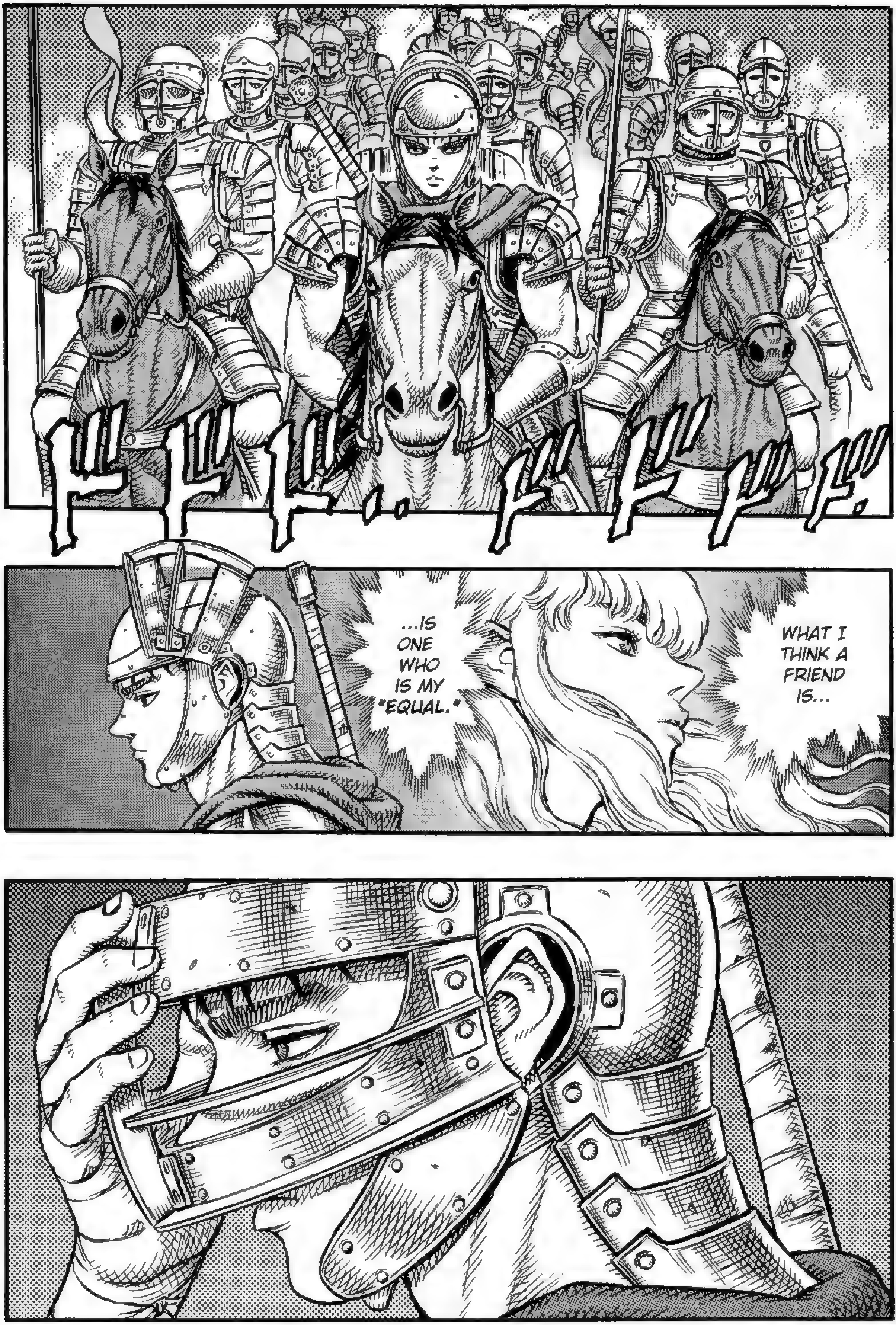
YOU THERE, KNIGHT...
Y...
YES, HIGHNESS!!
PLEASE...
PROTECT LORD GRIFFITH......
YES, HIGHNESS.
EVEN WITH MY OWN LIFE.
....


LET'S GO.
Y--
YEAH ...
ポン
......
......

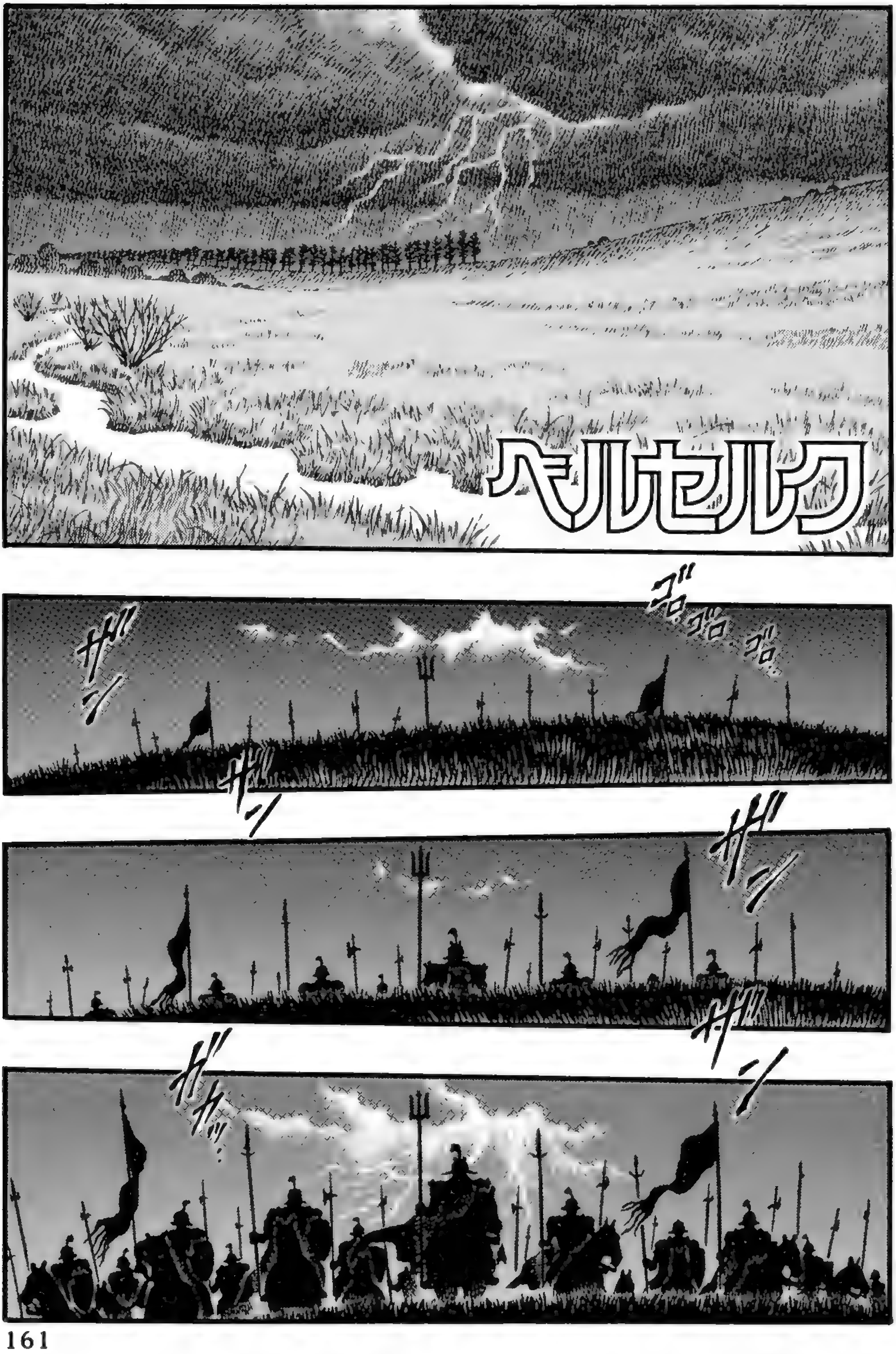
CHARLOTTE!
!
M... MOTHER!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?
CHARLOTTE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ......?
DO NOT FEIGN *IGNORANCE.*
GIVING GIFTS TO ONE SUCH AS HIM...
IT'S *MY* BUSINESS TO WHOM I GIVE MY THINGS!
UNACCEPTABLE!
YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE *ROYAL FAMILY.*
YET YOU GIVE GIFTS TO A MAN OF HUMBLE BIRTH? PROPERLY SPEAKING, ONE OF YOUR RANK SHOULD EVEN HESITATE TO SO LIGHTLY *CONVERSE* WITH HIM.
BUT... *MOTHER!!*
YOU ARE *SIXTEEN* NOW, NO *LONGER* A CHILD.
TRY REMEMBERING THAT YOU ARE THE *PRINCESS* OF *MIDLAND.*
BUT ...
....

!
CHAR-LOTTE!
タタタ
......
......
MOVE OUUUT!!
..アアアア..
ワァァ ア.ァァ

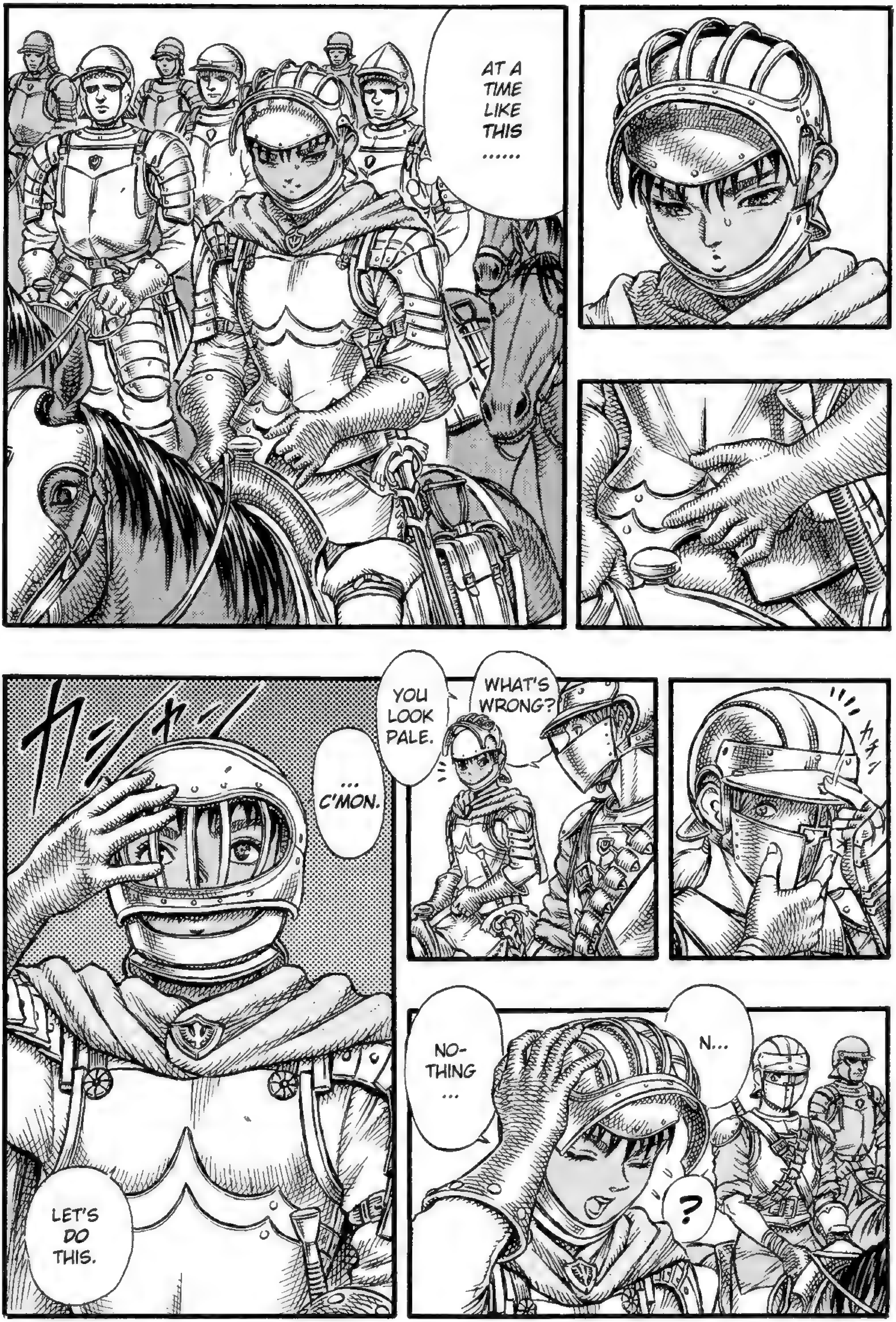

ドドド‥ドドドド!
WHAT I THINK A FRIEND IS...
...IS ONE WHO IS MY "EQUAL."

DEPARTURE FOR THE FRONT: END


ベルセルク
ゴロ ゴロ ゴロ
ザン
ザン
ザン
ザァン
ガガッ

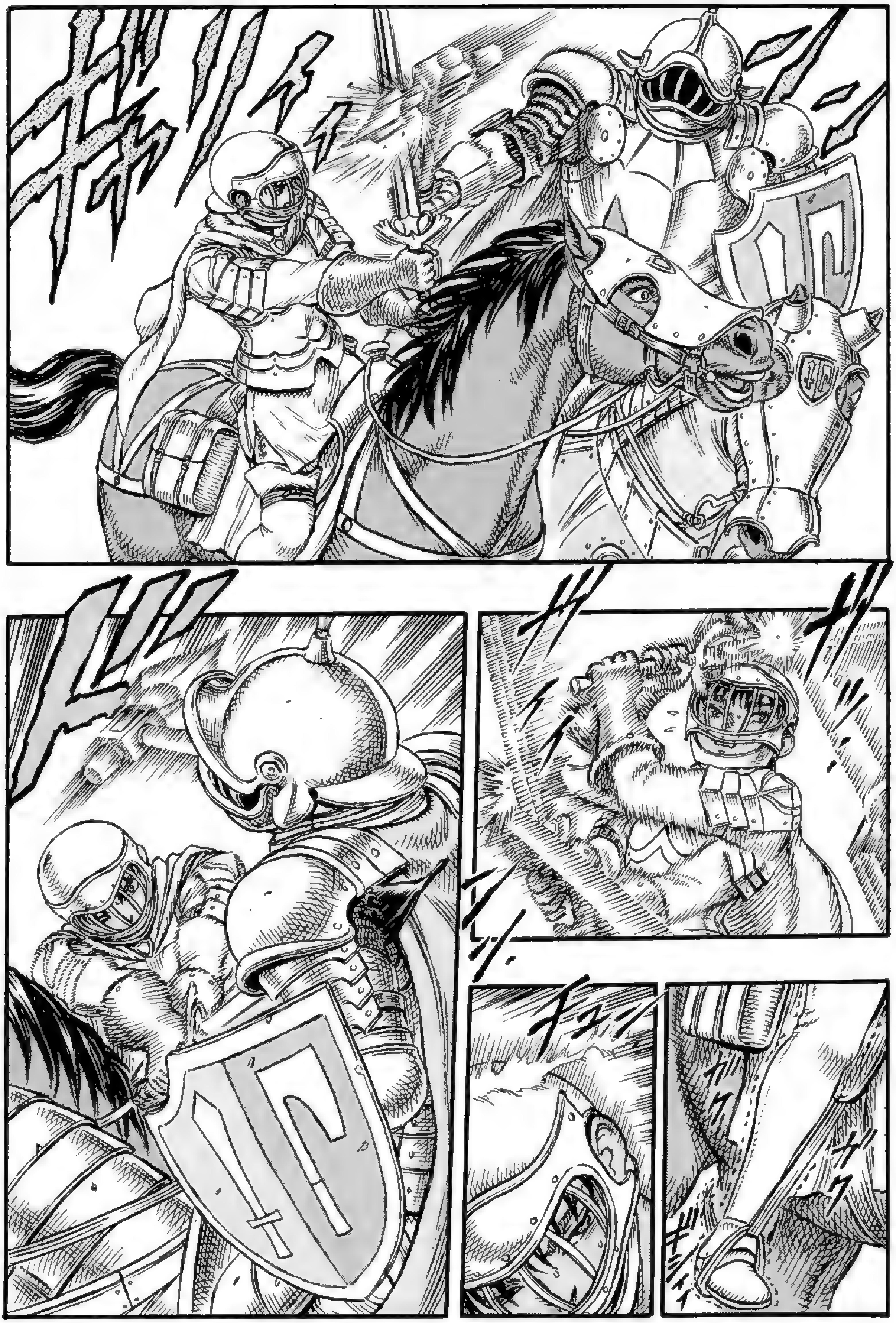
ベルセルク

合戦 ENGAGEMENT


AT A TIME LIKE THIS……
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU LOOK PALE.
カチ
N…
NO-THING…
?
カシャン
… C'MON.
LET'S DO THIS.

ジャキ
CHARRRGE!!
オオオオオオオ

ガッ
ガッ
!
WHEWW!
THIS IS A MELEE!


ギャリィィン
ドッ
ザザッ
ザシッ
チュン
グッ
ザッ

ガシャァァァ
ギャァァァァ
ヨロ…
HAHH
HAHH
ズズン
ズズン
!
ドドド
ドドド

SO YOU'RE HER...
THE ONLY WOMAN WHO COMMANDS A THOUSAND OF THE BAND OF THE HAWK.
....
....
HMPH.
I CAN'T STOMACH IT. A WOMAN PLAYING AT BEING A KNIGHT...
WOMEN ARE INFERIOR TO MEN IN STRENGTH, WHAT USE COULD THEY BE IN A BATTLE?
...NO.
YOU MIGHT HAVE A USE AS A NIGHTTIME PLAYTHING FOR YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS...
WHAT WAS THAT?
PERHAPS YOU EVEN ACHIEVED...
...YOUR RANK OF COMMANDER BY SNEAKING INTO THAT MAN GRIFFITH'S BEDROOM?

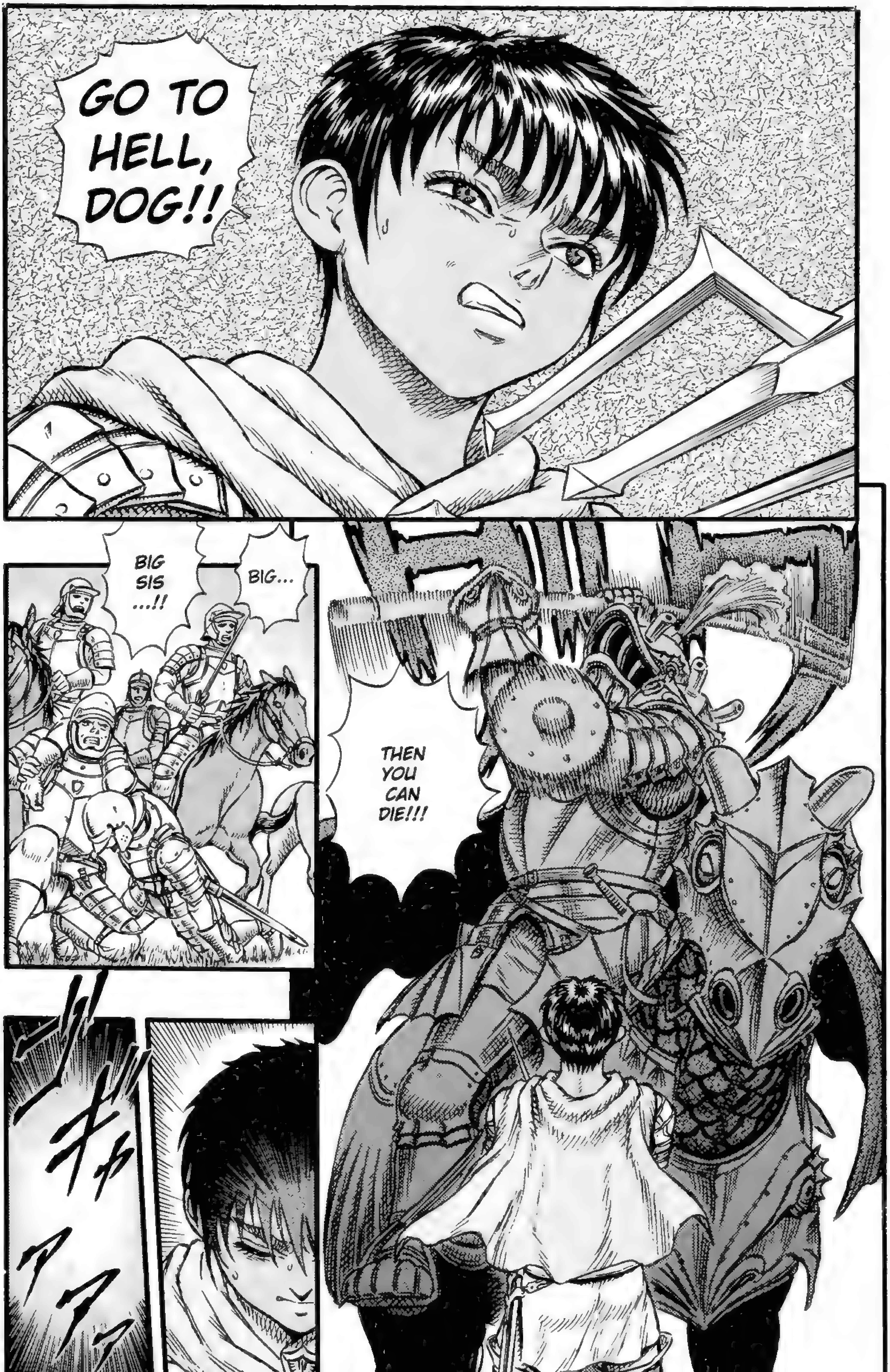
YOU BASTARD !!

....
...!!
THIS GUY'S ...
... STRONG !!

THE BATTLEFIELD IS THE SACRED GROUND OF MEN!!
I, ADON, HEAD OF THE BLUE WHALE ULTRA HEAVY ARMORED FIERCE ASSAULT ANNIHILATION KNIGHT CORP...
...SHALL TEACH YOU THE FOLLY OF YOUR FRIVOLITY IN SETTING FOOT UPON IT!!
HAHHHHH
I- I CAN'T...
I'VE GOT...
I'VE GOT NO STRENGTH...!!

BIG SIS ...!!
DAMN YOU!!
COMMANDER CASCA!!
FOOLS ...
KEEP BACK!!
HAH HAHHHH!!
ドガガアァ
IF YOU LET YOURSELF BE LED BY A WOMAN ...
... YOU'RE WEAKLINGS!!
....!!

DAMN YOU!
!
WHAT'S WRONG? NOWHERE LEFT TO RUN?
OHO...
YOU ADORN YOURSELF LIKE A *MAN*...BUT YOU'RE QUITE THE *GEM*, AREN'T YOU?
I'LL OFFER YOU A *CHANCE*.
IF YOU COME QUIETLY AS MY PRISONER, YOU CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE ALIVE.
BUT WHAT I *MEAN* BY *PRISONER*... IS YOU'D BE MY ARMY'S *HARLOT*.
GO ON.
GOOO ON.
....
...!!

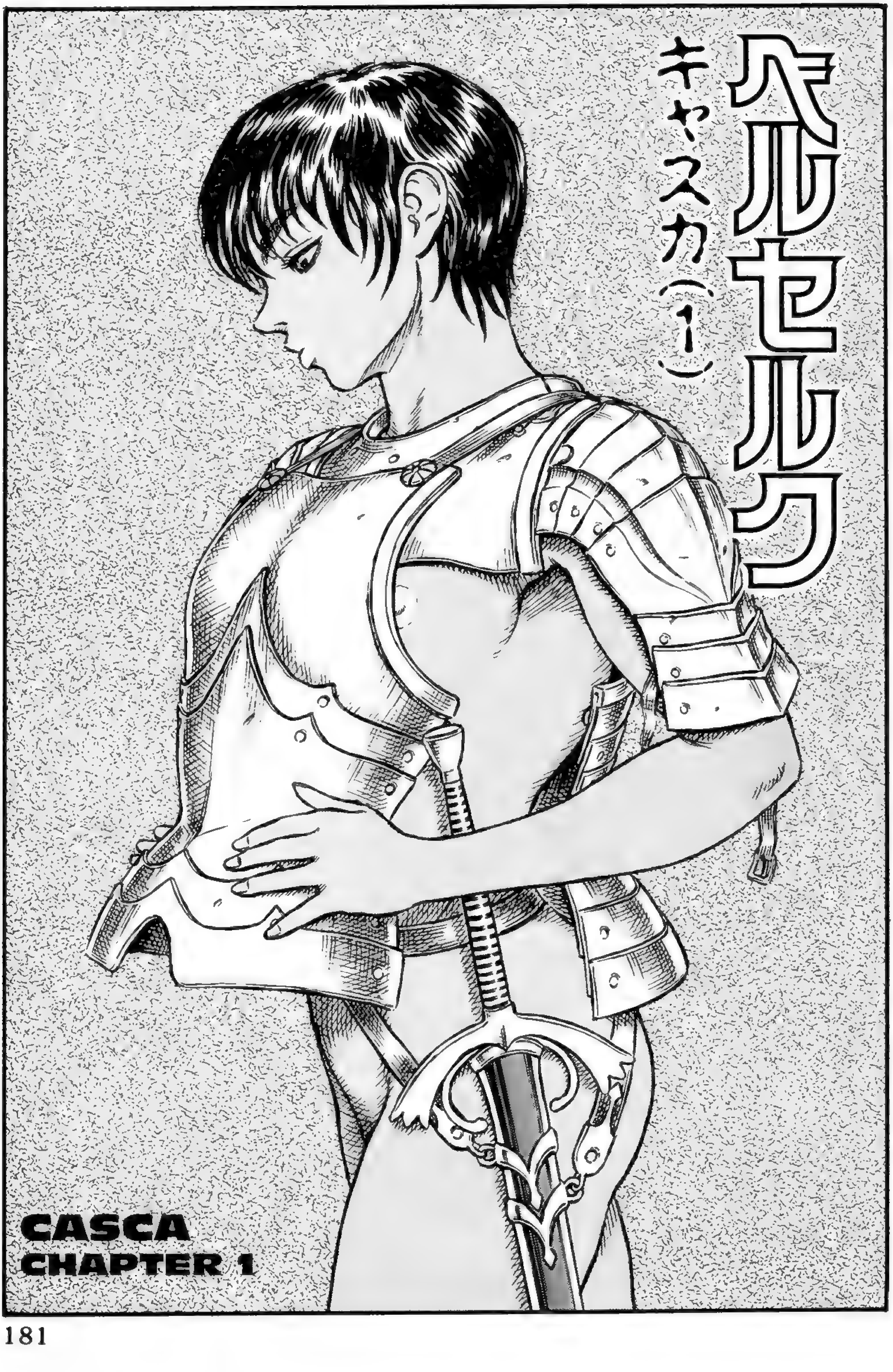

GO TO HELL, DOG!!
THEN YOU CAN DIE!!!
BIG...
BIG SIS ...!!
ゴッオォァァァ

!
THIS *AIN'T* LIKE YOU.

R... RAIDERS, CAPTAIN GUTS!!
GUTS...
OGOHHH
YOU...
...LOUT!
UWOHH!
HWAAA

COME ON.
ANYONE WILL DO...
I JUST FEEL LIKE SWINGING THIS WITH ALL MY MIGHT... UNTIL I CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE.

ENGAGEMENT: END


ベルセルク
キャスカ（1）

CASCA
CHAPTER 1

ガラガラ
……
……

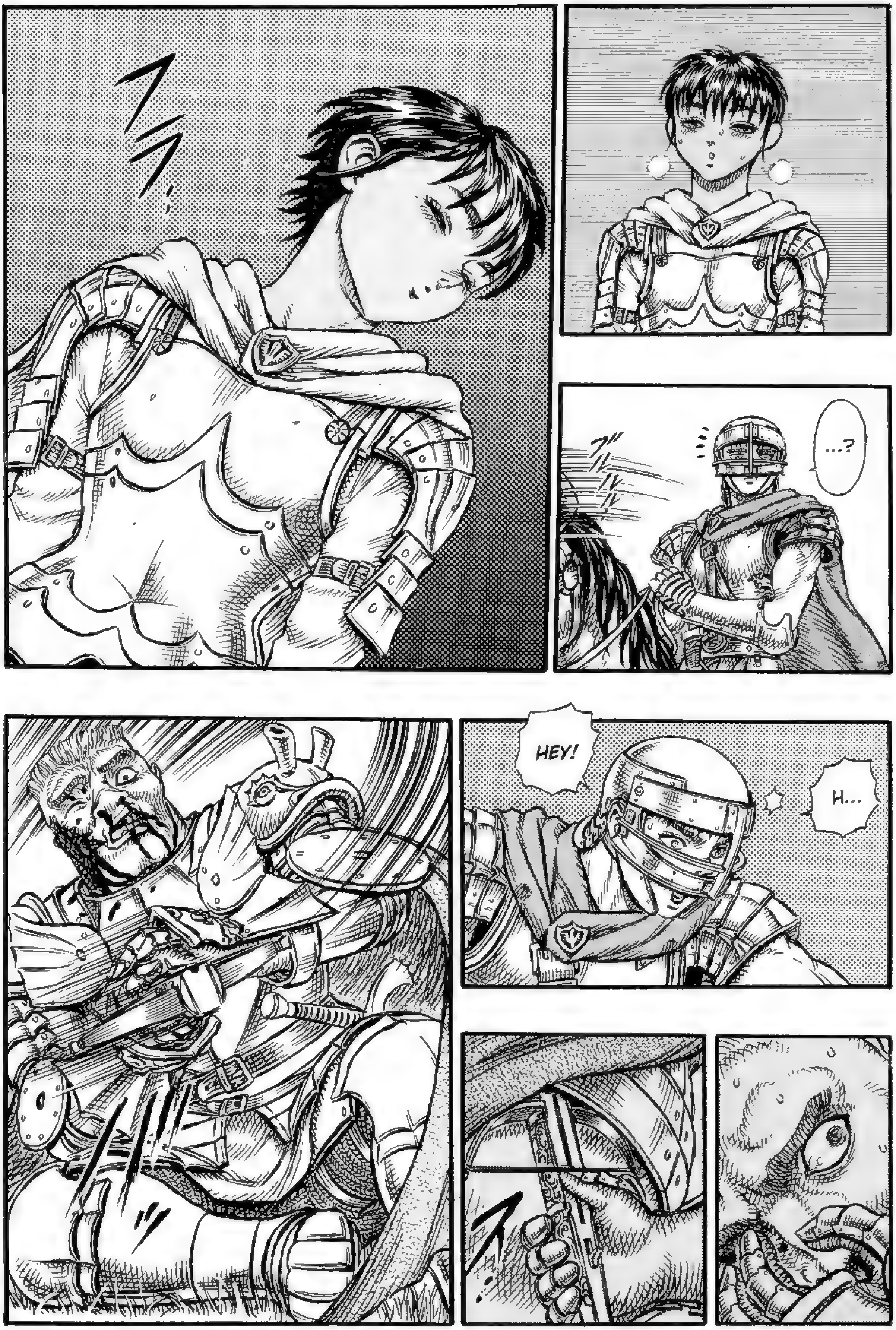
HRRNNNN!!
NRAAHH!!
HOW NOW, BOY!!
YOU STOPPED MY ATTACK WELL!!
CAN YOU STOP THIS?!
BUT LIGHTNING DOESN'T STRIKE TWICE!!
THE ULTIMATE SPEAR TECHNIQUE, WHICH CAN CRUSH EVEN MARBLE, PASSED SECRETLY DOWN THROUGH MY COBORLWITZ FAMILY FOR ONE HUNDRED FORTY YEARS!!

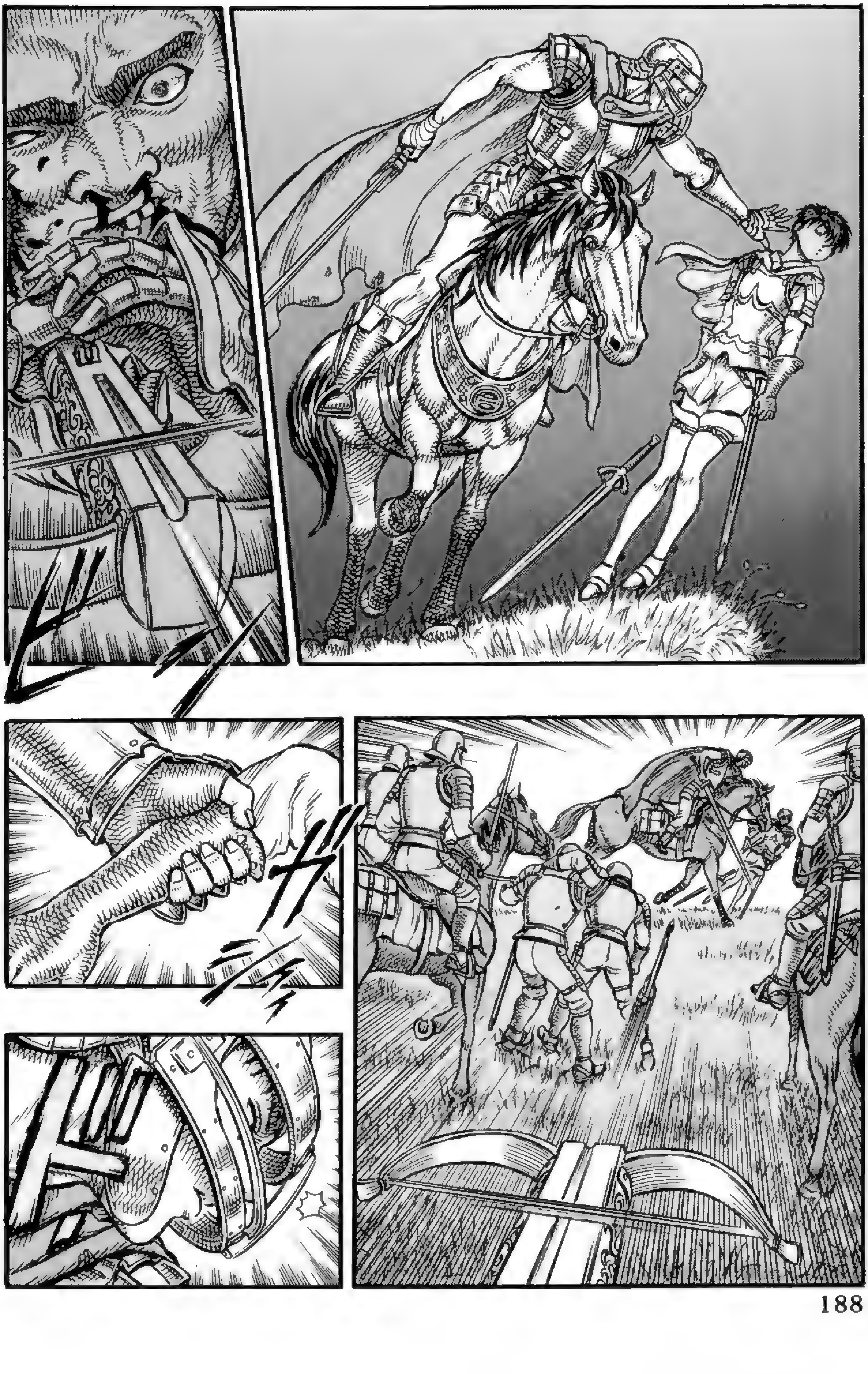
TAKE THIS!!
GANZANSENPU...!!*

*THIS TRANSLATES AS "ROCK-CUTTING WHIRLWIND."

PWAH ...!
HO!
GA...
GANJAN ...
HOGAYY

BUGOH!!
OROWAHH...
GANZAN-SENPU...
オオオ..
AW... AWESOME!!
HE... TOOK THAT MONSTER DOWN WITH JUST TWO SWINGS!!
ウオオオ
THAT'S OUR CAPTAIN!!
WATCH HIM GO!!
WHAT'S WRONG? THIS ISN'T HOW YOU USUALLY ARE.
YOUR FIGHTING'S HORRIBLE.
YOU'LL WIND UP DEAD IF YOU'RE OUT OF IT.
SO WHAT?


...?
H...
HEY!


ビッ
ガシャ

AH, HELL!
C... CAPTAIN...!!
GUTS!!
HYAHAAA!!

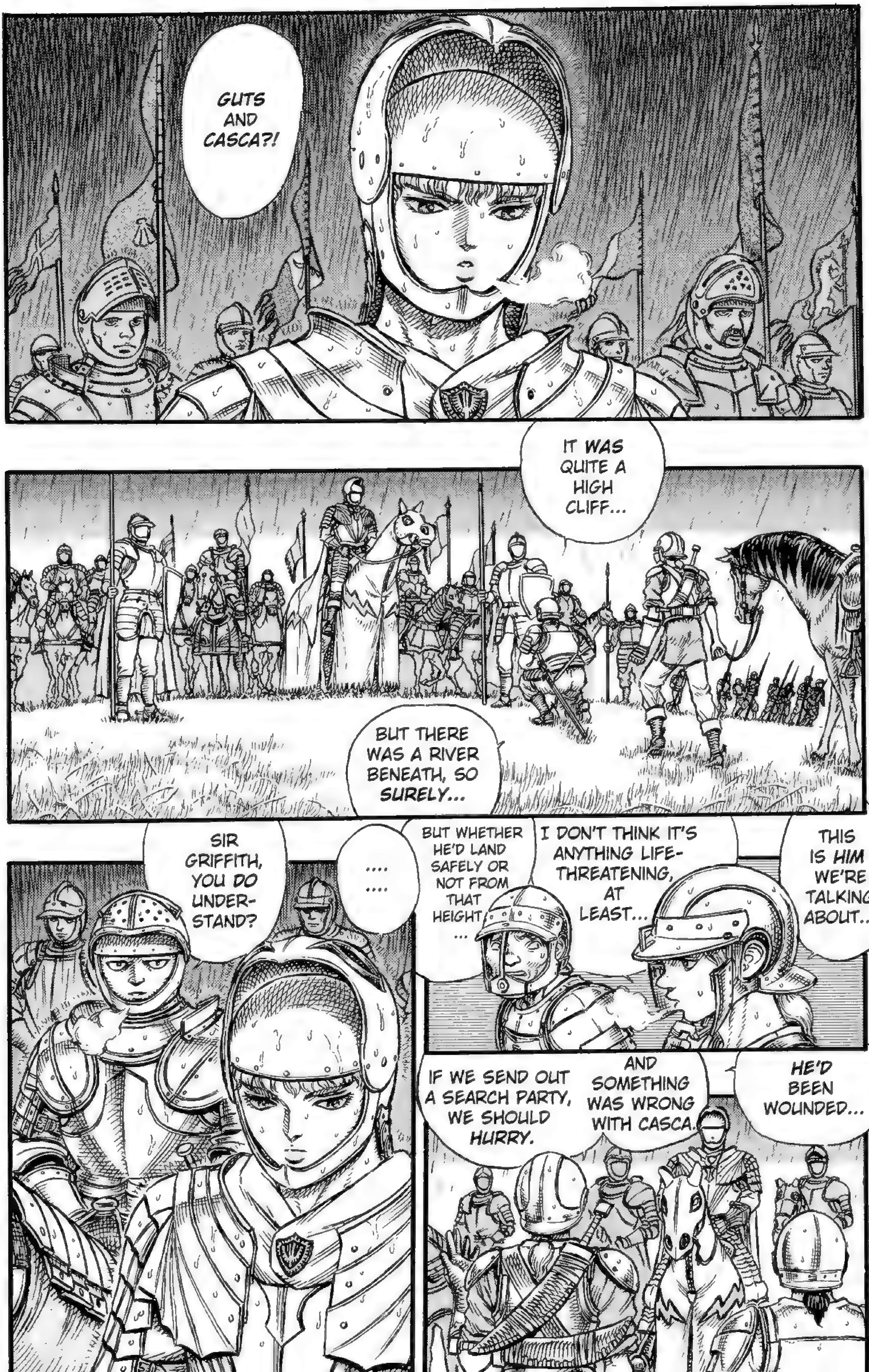
CAP-TAIN!!
GUTS!!
CASCA!!
.....
..!!
...HN!
ドザーン
....
...!!
AHH
...!!
GUTS...!!
CASCA
......!!

オオオ・オ・・オ・オオ・オ・・オ・・。
ザァァ・ア・ア・ア・。。
バシャ…
ザパァァァ
BUWAH!
-HAH!-
-HAH!-
-GEHOH!-
-GOHOH!-

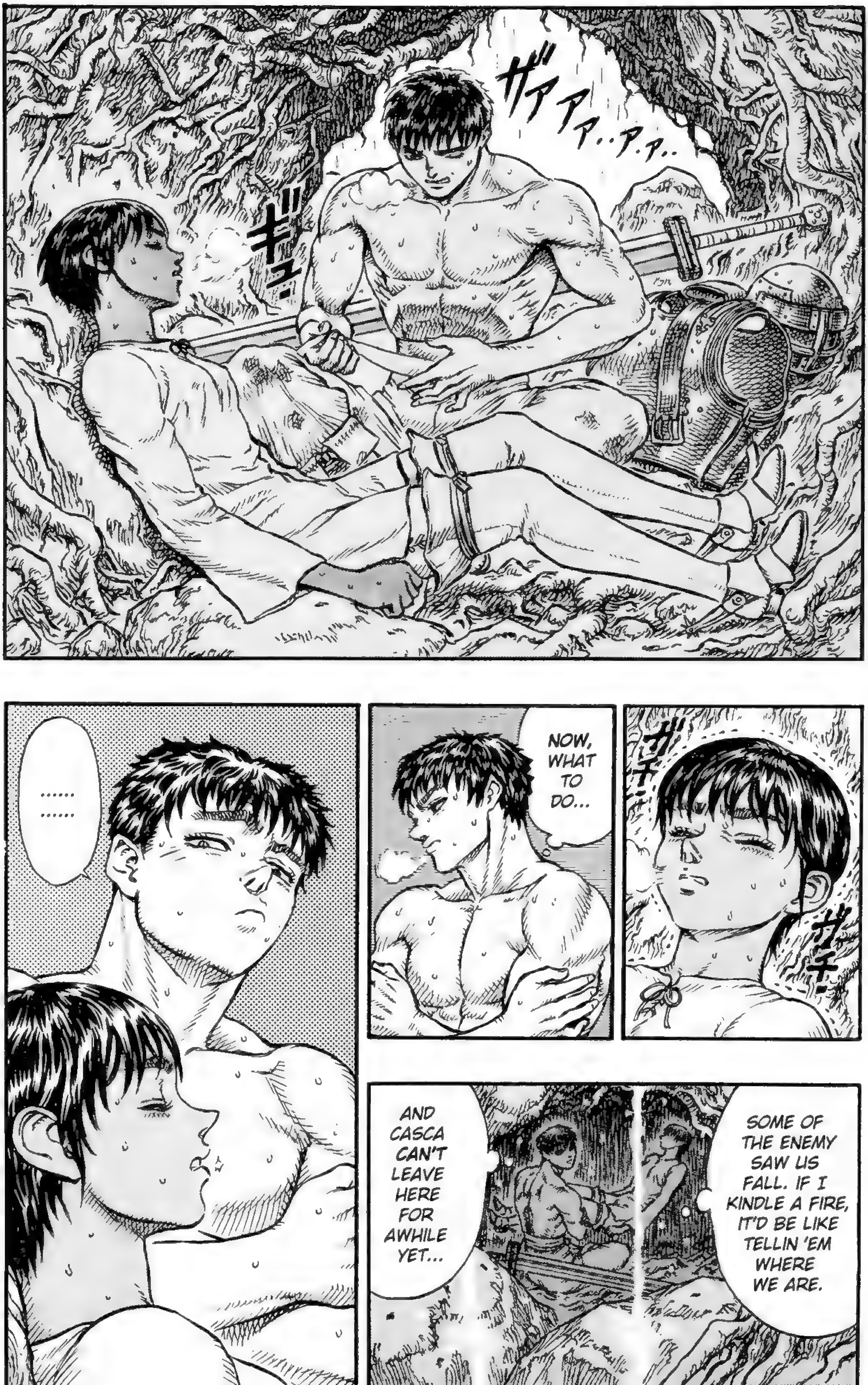
I'M NEVER DOIN' THAT AGAIN...
SWIMMING WITH MY ARMOR ON ...
-GEHH-
-GOHO-
!
UH OH!
カチャ カチャ
ザアア・ア・アア..
WHWWW
グイ
スゥゥゥ

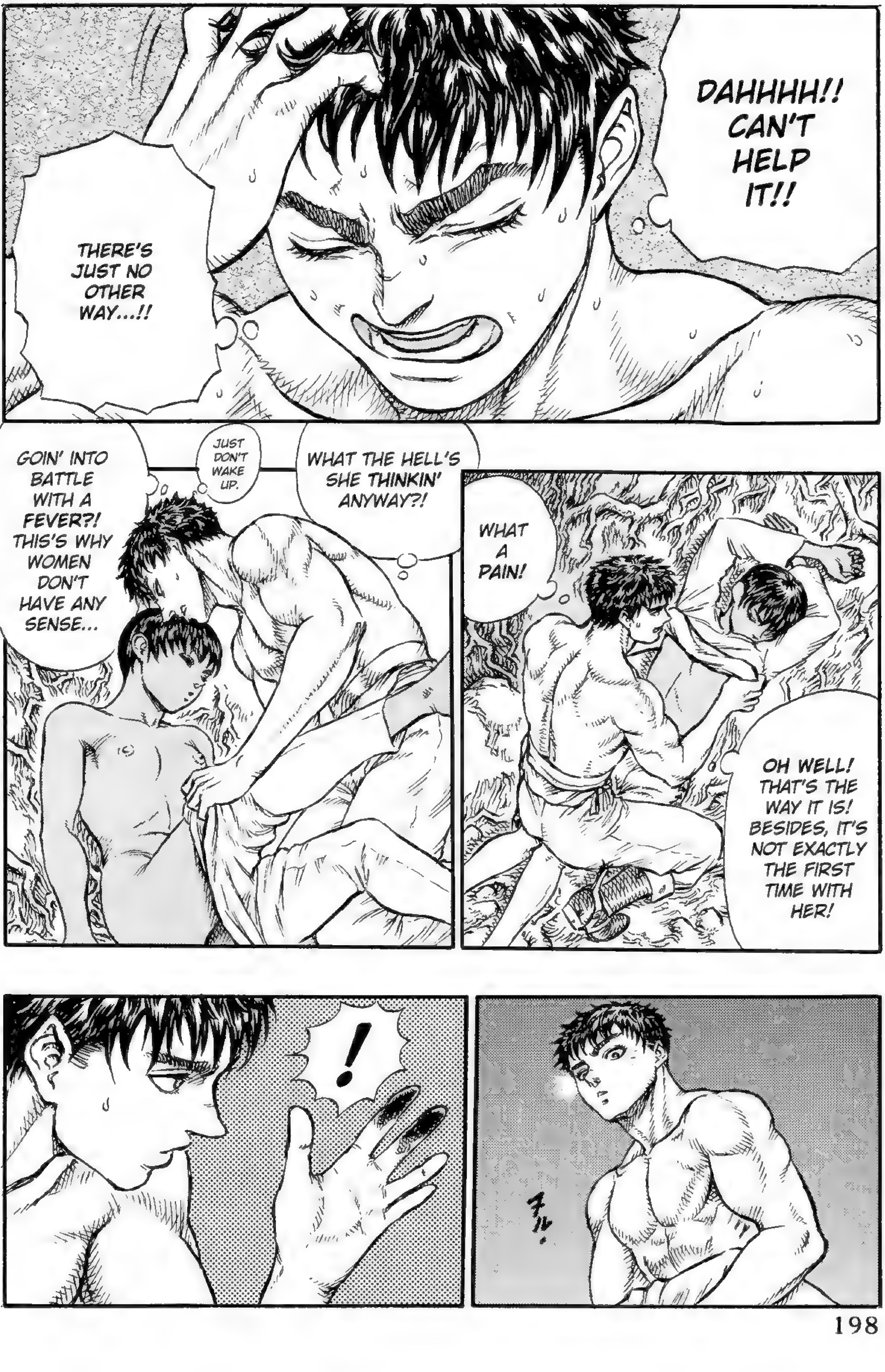
WHWWWW
ゴホ -GHAH-
スゥゥゥ。。
ギュ ギュ
WHEWWW
NG …!!
……!!

DAMMIT!
THAT WHALE BASTARD...
HE'S FISH BAIT NEXT TIME I SEE HIM.
ボチャッ
...STILL, WE'RE LUCKY TO BE ALIVE. FALLING FROM UP THERE......
HARD TA BELIEVE...
WHAT NOW? AIN'T NO WAY WE CAN SCALE THAT CLIFF...
HOW CAN WE GET BACK?
EWWW, S'COLLLD.
ガチガチ
ザアアアアア
!
!
HIGH FEVER...
MUST BE WHY SHE FAINTED...
THIS IS BAD...IF SHE STAYS IN THE RAIN LIKE THIS...


GUTS AND CASCA?!
IT WAS QUITE A HIGH CLIFF...
BUT THERE WAS A RIVER BENEATH, SO SURELY...
THIS IS HIM WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...
I DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING LIFE-THREATENING, AT LEAST...
BUT WHETHER HE'D LAND SAFELY OR NOT FROM THAT HEIGHT...
HE'D BEEN WOUNDED...
AND SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH CASCA.
IF WE SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY, WE SHOULD HURRY.
....
....
SIR GRIFFITH, YOU DO UNDERSTAND?

IN WAR, CONQUERING THE ENEMY IS *MOST* IMPORTANT!
TO SPARE VALUABLE TROOPS FROM THOSE GRANTED BY THE KING TO CONFIRM THE LIFE OR DEATH OF AT BEST A MERE UNIT COMMANDER *NOW* WOULD BE *OUTRAGEOUS!*
BESIDES, THE BAND OF THE HAWK'S HIGHLY TOUTED RAIDERS CAPTAIN AND FEMALE COMMANDER ARE TOGETHER, ARE THEY NOT?
FURTHERMORE, HE BROUGHT THIS UPON HIMSELF BY ENGAGING IN PERSONAL COMBAT!
N...*NO!* THAT *WASN'T*...!
......
THEY OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SURMOUNT SUCH A DILEMMA WITH EASE.
CERTAINLY.
IF THEY'RE ALIVE.
....
...!!
....
....
ザァザァ…


ザアアァ…アァ…
ギュ
ガチ
ガチ
NOW, WHAT TO DO...
SOME OF THE ENEMY SAW US FALL. IF I KINDLE A FIRE, IT'D BE LIKE TELLIN 'EM WHERE WE ARE.
AND CASCA CAN'T LEAVE HERE FOR AWHILE YET...
......
......


DAHHHH!! CAN'T HELP IT!!
THERE'S JUST NO OTHER WAY...!!
WHAT A PAIN!
OH WELL! THAT'S THE WAY IT IS! BESIDES, IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE FIRST TIME WITH HER!
WHAT THE HELL'S SHE THINKIN' ANYWAY?!
JUST DON'T WAKE UP.
GOIN' INTO BATTLE WITH A FEVER?! THIS'S WHY WOMEN DON'T HAVE ANY SENSE...
フル
!

BLOOD ..?!
DID THE IDIOT GET WOUNDED ...?!
....
SO THAT'S IT...
....
MUST BE ROUGH ...
... BEING A WOMAN.

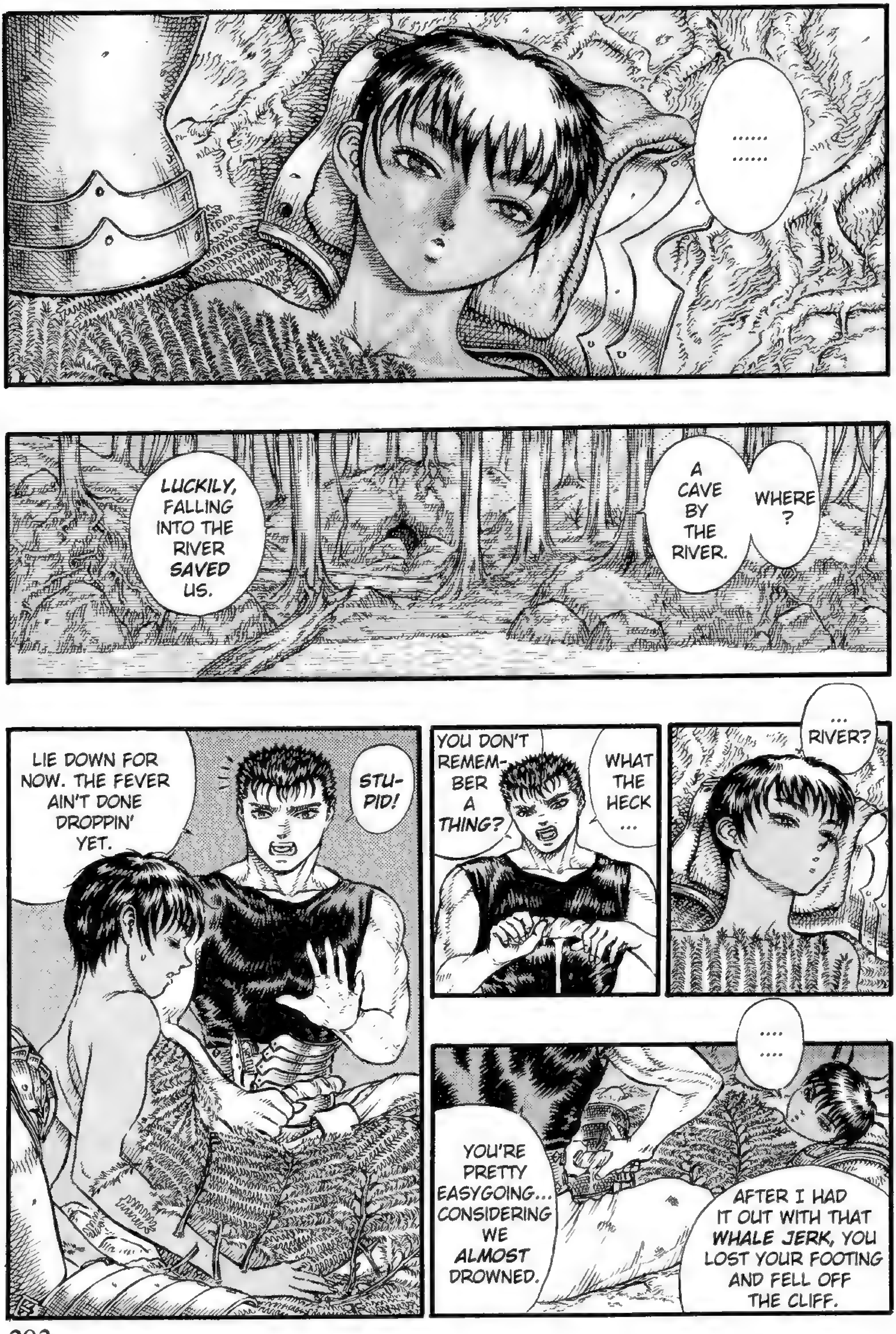
CASCA (1): END

ベルセルク
WHETHER YOU COME ALONG OR NOT IS YOUR DECISION.
YOU KNOW HOW TO FIGHT ALREADY, DON'T YOU?
BUT...
...BUT ...

キャスカ(2)

CASCA CHAPTER 2

...BUT...
YO.

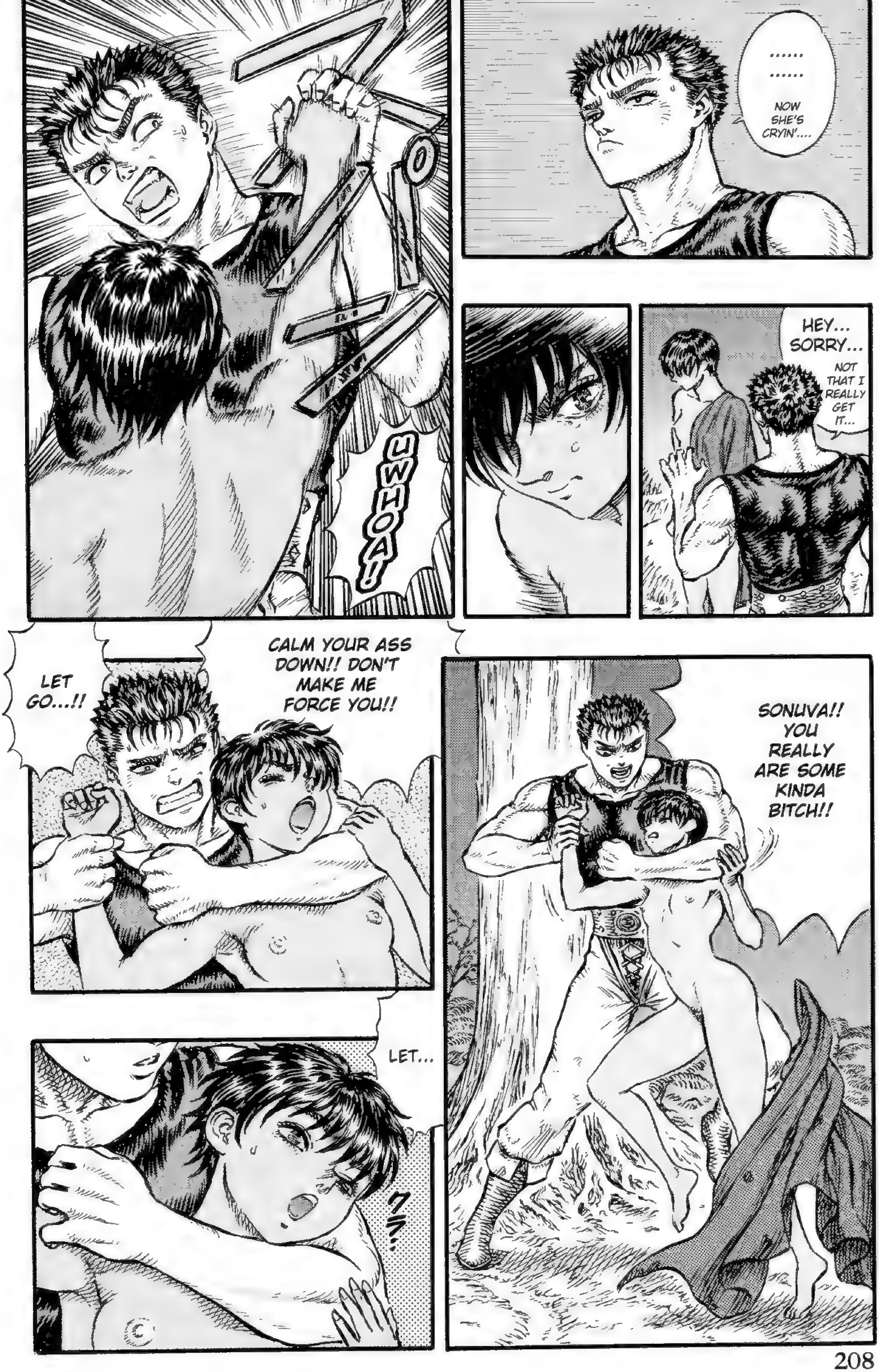

......
......
WHERE?
A CAVE BY THE RIVER.
LUCKILY, FALLING INTO THE RIVER *SAVED* US.
...RIVER?
WHAT THE HECK...
YOU DON'T REMEMBER A THING?
....
....
AFTER I HAD IT OUT WITH THAT *WHALE JERK,* YOU LOST YOUR FOOTING AND FELL OFF THE CLIFF.
YOU'RE PRETTY EASYGOING... CONSIDERING WE *ALMOST* DROWNED.
STUPID!
LIE DOWN FOR NOW. THE FEVER AIN'T DONE DROPPIN' YET.

パサッ…
YOU WERE SOAKIN' WET AND FREEZIN' TO DEATH TO BOOT.
WHAT COULD I DO?
……
…WHAT'S THAT LOOK FOR?
HERE.
ガツン!

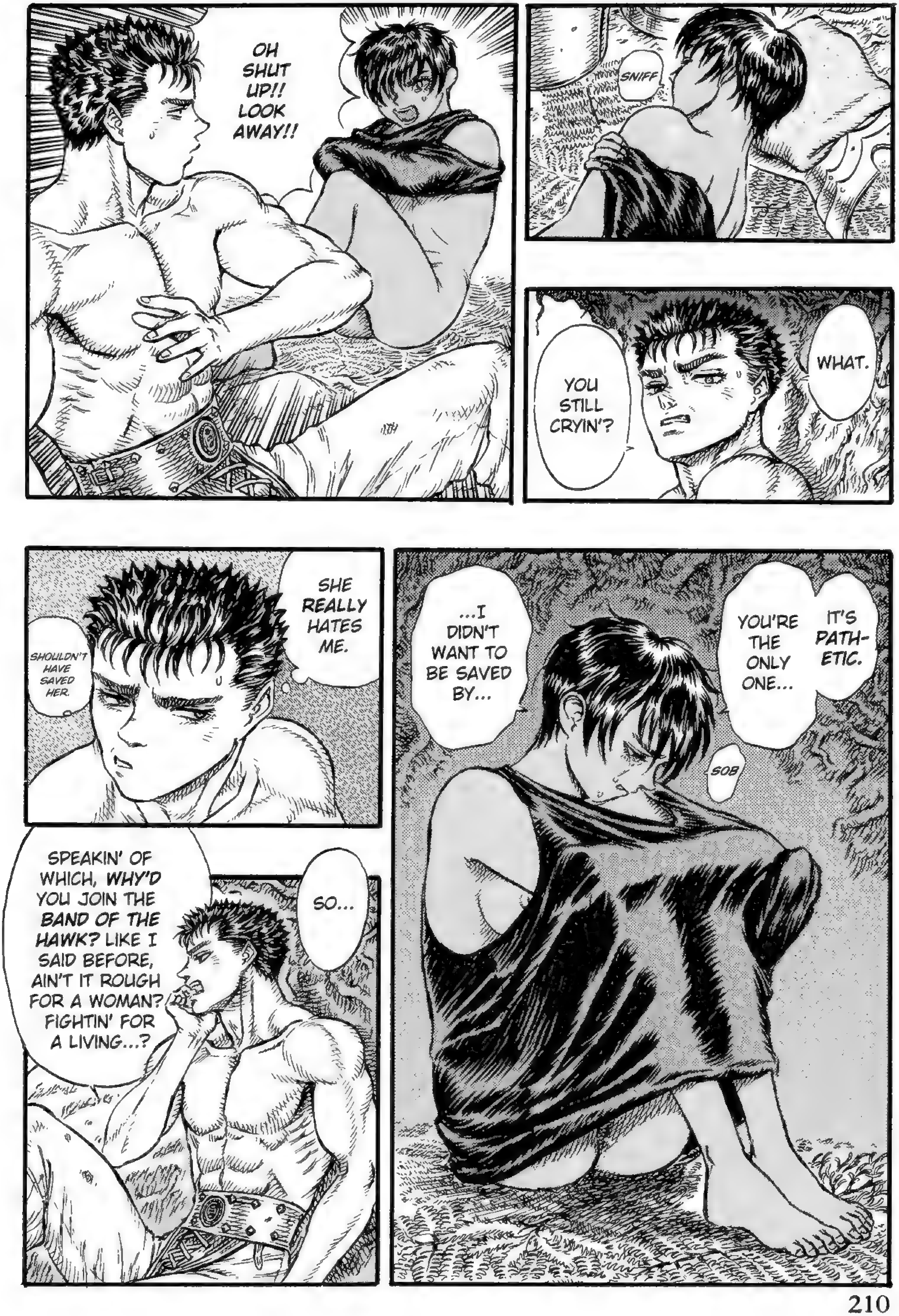
...O-OW!!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?! THAT HURT A TON!!
!
HERE I SAVED YOU AND NOW ......!!
ガシャン
ガラ ガラガラ
HEY!!
CUT THAT OU--!!
ガン!!
ビーン
....
....
-HAHH-
-HAHH-

HELLO!! YOU FINISHED NOW?!
YOU... HYSTERIC BITCH!!
ピク
I AIN'T TRYIN' TO LORD THIS OVER YOU!!
BUT I'M THE ONE WHO ALMOST DIED DRAGGIN' YOU OUT OF THE RIVER WITH ARMOR ON!!
INSTEAD OF ONE WORD OF THANKS, YOU HURL A KNIFE AT ME?!
IF YOU WEREN'T A WOMAN, I'D KNOCK YOUR JAW RIGHT OUTTA JOINT FOR THAT!!
I CAN'T STOMACH IT. A WOMAN PLAYING AT BEING A KNIGHT...... WOMEN ARE INFERIOR TO MEN IN STRENGTH, WHAT USE COULD THEY BE IN A BATTLE?
PERHAPS YOU EVEN ACHIEVED YOUR RANK OF COMMANDER BY SNEAKING INTO THAT MAN GRIFFITH'S BEDROOM?

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO DAMN READY TO BE PISSED ABOUT SOME-THIN' ...
THIS IS WHY WOMEN AIN'T *CUT OUT* TO BE WARRIORS.
I WASN'T...
WHA ...?
I WASN'T...
...BORN A WOMAN BECAUSE I *WANTED* TO BE..


UWHOA!!
......
......
NOW SHE'S CRYIN'....
HEY... SORRY...
NOT THAT I REALLY GET IT...
LET GO...!!
CALM YOUR ASS DOWN!! DON'T MAKE ME FORCE YOU!!
LET...
クラ…
SONUVA!! YOU REALLY ARE SOME KINDA BITCH!!

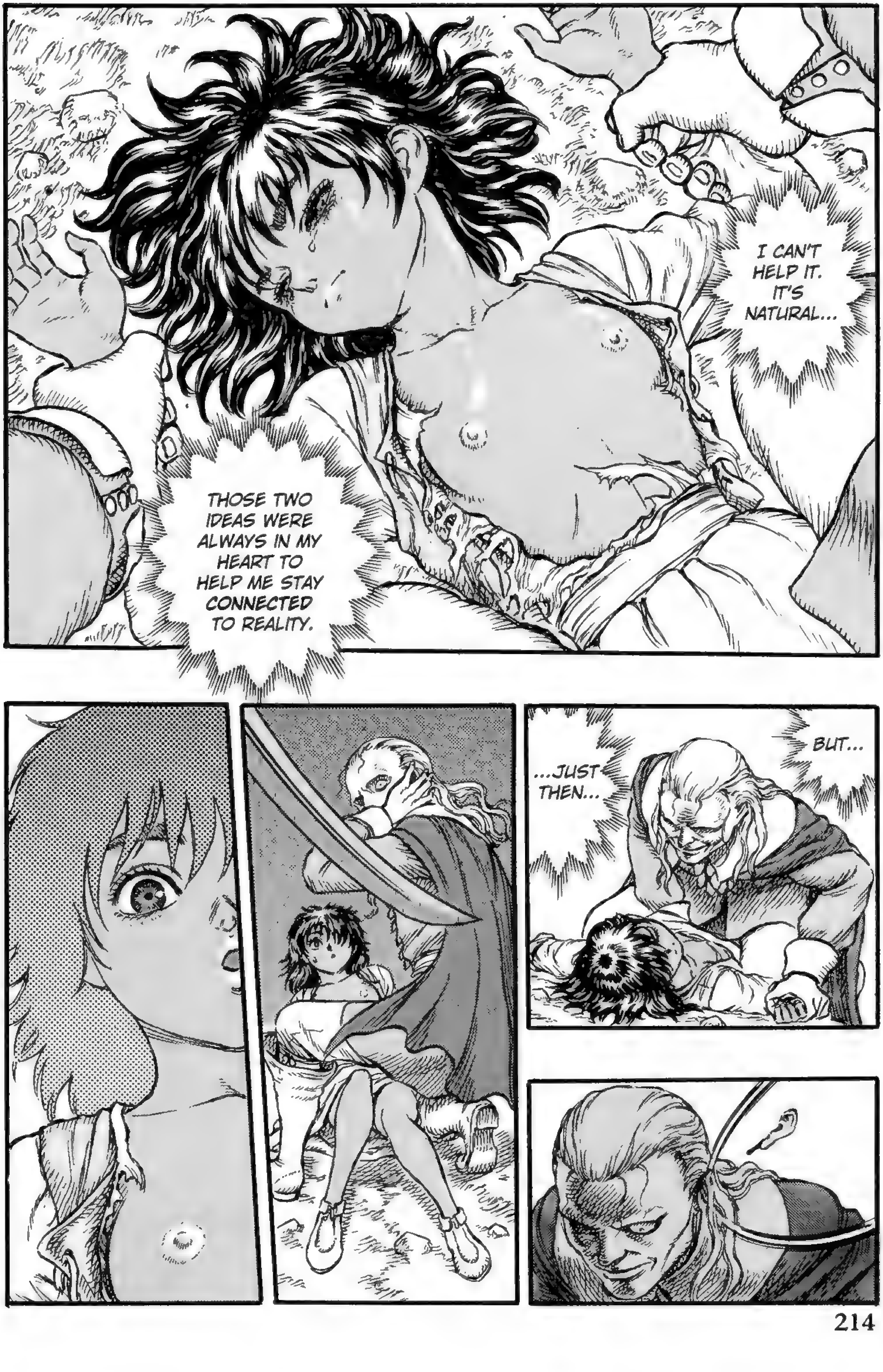
HEY...
!
ズル!!
ハァ ハァ
I TOLD YA...
HERE! PUT THIS ON.
バサ!
I WAS WEARING IT, SO IT'S DRY ALREADY.


SNIFF
WHAT.
YOU STILL CRYIN'?
OH SHUT UP!! LOOK AWAY!!
IT'S PATHETIC.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...
...I DIDN'T WANT TO BE SAVED BY...
SOB
SHE REALLY HATES ME.
SHOULDN'T HAVE SAVED HER.
SO...
SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, WHY'D YOU JOIN THE BAND OF THE HAWK? LIKE I SAID BEFORE, AIN'T IT ROUGH FOR A WOMAN? FIGHTIN' FOR A LIVING...?

....
....
IF YOU DON'T WANNA SAY IT ...
... THEN, WHATEVER.
IT'S GRIFFITH.
GRIFFITH ...
....
....
MY HOME VILLAGE...
...WAS POOR AND NESTLED IN A MOUNTAIN RAVINE.
THE LAND WAS BARREN, AND WE COULDN'T REALLY GROW MUCH BESIDES OATS.
EVEN SO, WE WERE BLED DRY BY TAXES FOR THE WAR EFFORT.
HAVING TO GO THREE DAYS WITHOUT ANY FOOD WAS A COMMON THING...
PEOPLE *EVEN* STARVED TO DEATH IN WINTER.

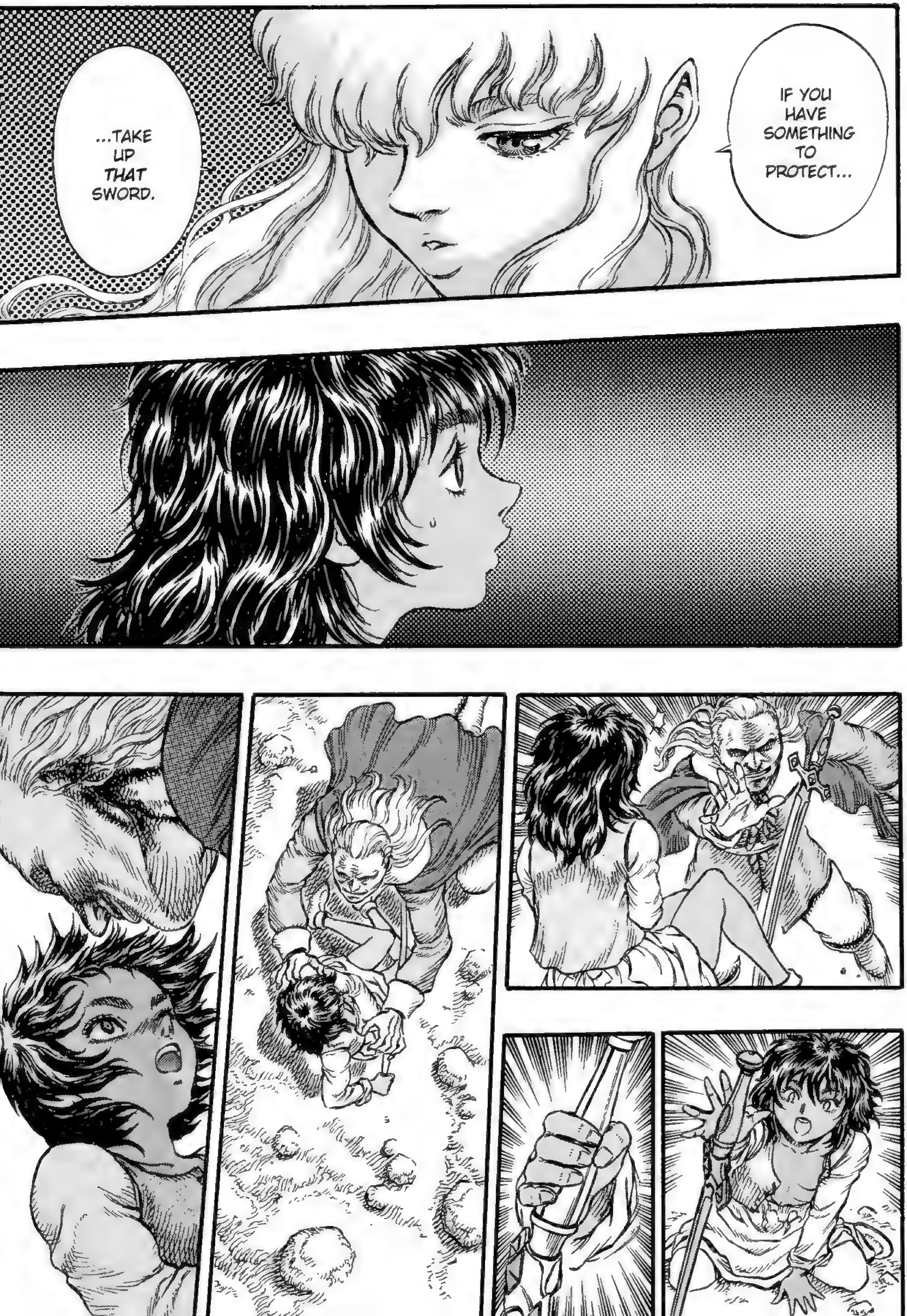
BECAUSE THE VILLAGE WAS NEAR THE BORDER, IT WAS OFTEN INVOLVED IN SKIRMISHES.
WHEN THAT HAPPENED, ALL WE COULD DO WAS HIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS AND WATCH SILENTLY AS OUR HOUSES AND FIELDS WERE RAVAGED.
IT WAS JUST LIKE WITH ANY OTHER VILLAGE...
WE WERE ALL USED TO BEING ROBBED AND WALKED OVER.
I TOO THOUGHT THAT SUCH A WAY OF LIFE WAS JUST NATURAL.
....
ONE DAY...
...A NOBLEMAN WHO HAPPENED TO PASS THROUGH THE VILLAGE ON A LONG RIDE CAUGHT SIGHT OF ME.
THE NOBLEMAN APPROACHED MY PARENTS SAYING HE WANTED ME FOR A CASTLE MAID.
WHILE MY FATHER WAS RELUCTANT, HE ACCEPTED THE OFFER.
THERE WAS NO OTHER PRACTICAL ANSWER. MY FAMILY HAD SIX CHILDREN, AND STRANGELY NONE OF US HAD STARVED TO DEATH BY THEN...
I THINK IT WAS THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR MY FATHER TO LOSE HIS YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, WHO WASN'T MUCH USE AS A WORKER AND YET ANOTHER MOUTH TO FEED.

BUT...
...EN ROUTE TO THE CASTLE...
IT WAS OBVIOUS WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
THIS WAS HIS AIM FROM THE BEGINNING.
THERE'S NO NOBLEMAN WHIMSICAL ENOUGH TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO SAVE A DESTITUTE GIRL HE'S NEVER EVEN SEEN BEFORE.


I CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S NATURAL...
THOSE TWO IDEAS WERE ALWAYS IN MY HEART TO HELP ME STAY CONNECTED TO REALITY.
BUT...
...JUST THEN...

DOES BEING BORN OF THE NOBILITY...
...MEAN THAT YOU'RE CHOSEN BY GOD?

I THOUGHT GOD HAD TAKEN PITY ON THIS MISERABLE, POWERLESS GIRL AND SENT AN ANGEL...
HE WAS AWE-INSPIRING... AN OTHERWORLDLY SPECTACLE.
SO STRANGE...... IT WAS AS IF THE IMAGE OF SOME SAINT ADORNING THE WALL OF MY VILLAGE CHURCH HAD JUST COME TO LIFE.
THAT'S HOW IT SEEMED FOR AN INSTANT TO ME AT TWELVE YEARS OLD.
!
BUT WHAT THAT ANGEL EXTENDED TO ME WASN'T A FAIRY TALE-LIKE...
...HELPING HAND IN MY TIME OF NEED.


IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO PROTECT...
...TAKE UP THAT SWORD.

...I WAS AFRAID.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I STABBED HIM OR IF HE FELL ON THE BLADE BY HIMSELF...
IN ANY CASE, I KILLED SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
I WAS SO AFRAID... I COULDN'T SPEAK OR MOVE FROM THAT SPOT.
I WAS NEVER GOING TO LET GO OF THE SWORD WITH BLOOD DRIPPING FROM IT.

HE JUST NODDED...
DEEPLY AND SLOWLY...
BUT THAT...
...WAS THE REAL HELPING HAND HE EXTENDED TO ME.
THE FEAR DIDN'T VANISH COMPLETELY, BUT THE FEELINGS OF GUILT AND REGRET FADED...
HIS MAGNIFICENCE... AND THE WARMTH OF THE BLANKET HE GAVE ME FILLED MY HEART.

GRIFFITH, WE'RE FINISHED OVER THERE.
!
ARE THESE PEOPLE ROBBERS?
AH...
... WAIT.
WHAT...
...SHOULD I DO?
DO AS YOU WISH.
... ...
...LET ME.

LET ME COME WITH YOU!!
ON IMPULSE...
THOSE WORDS SPRANG FROM MY MOUTH.
HEY, HEY, DON'T JOKE AROUND.
GIRLY.
WE AIN'T JUST SOME THIEVES!
WE'RE COLLECTIN' WAR FUNDS SO WE CAN EVENTUALLY SET UP AN ARMY!
HOW CAN WE FIGHT WITH WOMEN AND KIDS ALONG?!
I CAN'T GO BACK TO MY VILLAGE. IF I GO BACK ALONE AND UNHURT, THE OFFICIAL WILL NEVER BELIEVE THAT YOU AIDED ME. HE'S THE SAME AS THE NOBLES... I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D USE AS AN EXCUSE WHEN THEY QUESTION ME...
BESIDES... IT WOULD BE A BURDEN ON MY FAMILY.

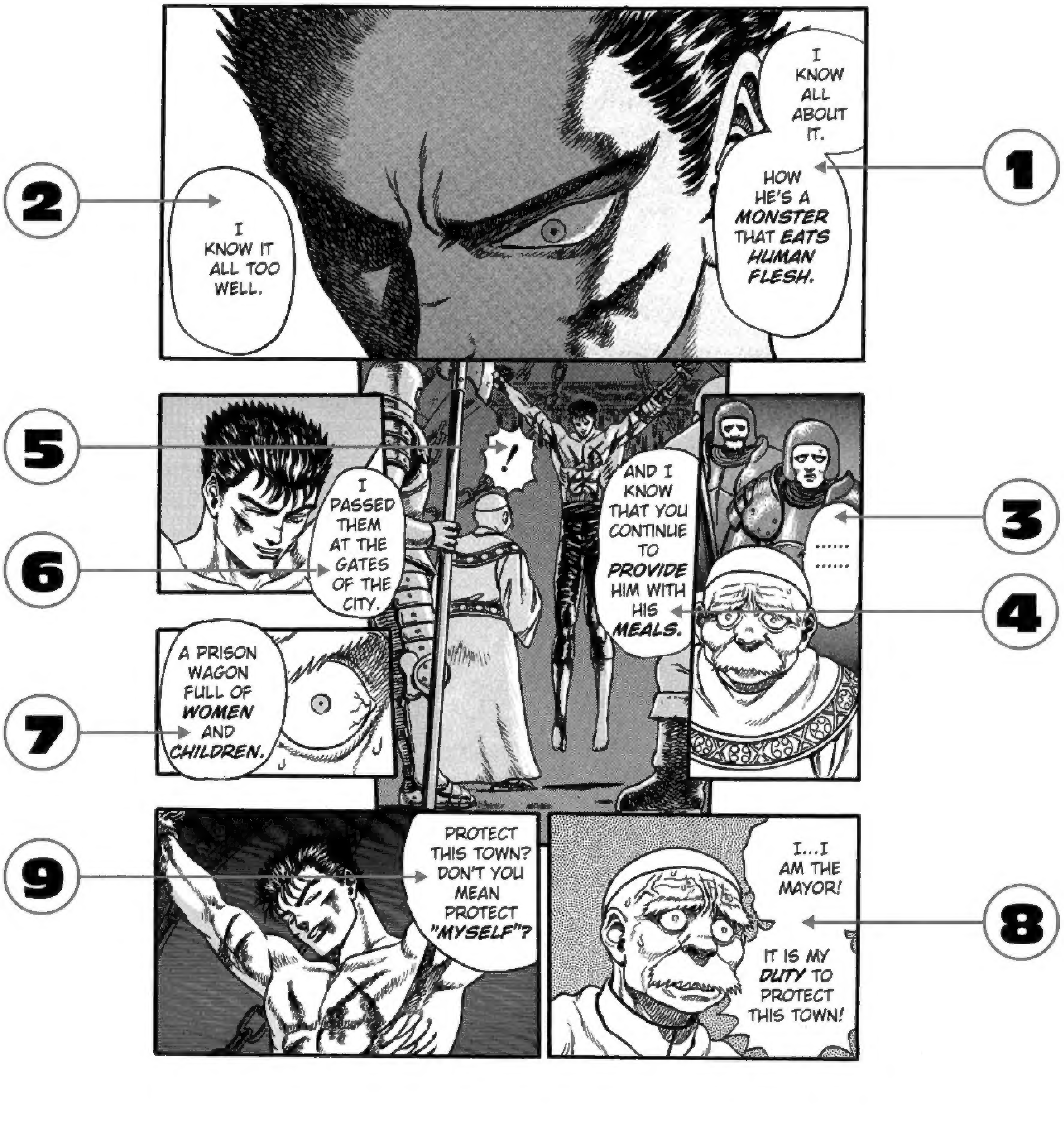
PLEASE...
IF YOU TELL ME TO LEARN THE SWORD, I WILL.
SO...
WHOA, WHOA, SHE'S SERIOUS.
....
....
YOU MIGHT DIE, YOU KNOW.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU? DO AS YOU WISH.
WHETHER YOU COME ALONG OR NOT IS YOUR DECISION.
NOD

YOU KNOW HOW TO FIGHT ALREADY, DON'T YOU?
....
....
BUT...
BUT...
YOU WERE THE ONE...
...WHO GAVE ME THE SWORD AND THE BLANKET.
CASCA (2): END

STOP

This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!


1
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.
HOW HE'S A *MONSTER* THAT *EATS HUMAN FLESH.*
2
I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL.
3
......
......
4
AND I KNOW THAT YOU CONTINUE TO *PROVIDE* HIM WITH HIS *MEALS.*
5
!
6
I PASSED THEM AT THE GATES OF THE CITY.
7
A PRISON WAGON FULL OF *WOMEN* AND *CHILDREN.*
8
I...I AM THE MAYOR!
IT IS MY *DUTY* TO PROTECT THIS TOWN!
9
PROTECT THIS TOWN? DON'T YOU MEAN PROTECT *"MYSELF"*?

COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / MANGA / HORROR

BERSERK

KENTARO
MIURA

6

ベルセルク
三浦建太郎

Back in the day, Guts the Black Swordsman was a top slayer for the Band of the Hawk, an elite mercenary unit led by Griffith, whose calm demeanor and callow beauty belied his fighting prowess and steel will. While in a king's employ, the attraction between the king's daughter and Griffith combined with the growing favor of the king toward the Hawk leader raises the hackles of the king's jealous brother, who plots to have Griffith summarily assassinated. But if the plot fails, the king's brother will likely have to deal with Guts and his titanic broadsword, and the results of such confrontations are rarely pretty . . . or easy to clean up!

Created by Kentaro Miura, *Berserk* is a bloodstained manga juggernaut, equal parts savage violence, gruesome horror, and black humor packed inside a flaming powder keg and rolled downhill into a crowd of terrified civilians. Let the weak-kneed get out of the way, 'cause *Berserk* ain't about to give up any ground!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK
HORSE
MANGA

DarkHorse.com

FOR READERS 18+
FOR MATURE
READERS